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National Interests in the Campaign against Atomic War

When one studies, from a national point of view, the problems raised by the N.A.T.O. decision on the adoption of atomic weapons as the basis of its military organisation, one conclusion stands out very clearly. It is that this new stage of the policy of strength, the most scandalous yet, aggravates the dangers which every country has to face. This is so because the N.A.T.O. decision sets the international situation in a new light, politically, economically and from the military point of view.

This decision menaces the whole world with the immediate threat of the destruction of life and wealth on an incalculable scale. But, more than that, it is a mortgage on the sovereignty of every country, for it is an instrument of pressure and blackmail which can force them to grant bases, to sign pacts, to join blocs and to accept foreign control over their strategic raw materials. These things are opposed to their real national interests and help to increase international tension, which is every day becoming more dangerous. How much would a nation which does not possess atomic weapons retain of her sovereignty if the world knuckled under to the attempts being made to blackmail it?

These are only a few of the imperative reasons why the world campaign against the preparations for atomic war is correct and urgent. They oblige the National Peace Committees to explain clearly to public opinion how and to what extent the N.A.T.O. decision affects the national interests.

This is already being done in a number of countries. Let us take the example of Italy. In that country the campaign against the preparations for atomic war is based on specifically Italian interests. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Europe; there is the duty of defending constitutional freedom which is being jeopardised by the military treaties, and of preserving for mankind a particularly precious cultural heritage. These are reasons why the whole Italian people should act together against those who would prepare for atomic war.

This harmony that exists between national interests and the interests of all mankind as a result of the threat that is hanging over every country enables every National Peace Movement to bring public opinion into active opposition to atomic war on the basis of the problems peculiar to each nation and deeply felt by every man and woman, not only for their effects on the individual, but as vital national interests. Thus, for example, the nations contiguous to the German Federal Republic, which are conducting a courageous campaign against the rearming of that country, are redoubling their efforts now that there is a threat that atomic weapons will be put into the hands of former Nazi generals. In the same way, the peoples of the Near and Middle East have been actively opposing the military pacts which bind their countries to the United States, but they now find themselves confronted with greater responsibilities and dangers. For this reason they are welcoming the world campaign as an even more active and vigorous form of self-defence. The colonial countries which possess the raw materials necessary for the manufacture of atomic weapons, or on whose territory bases for atomic bombers and atomic weapons dumps have been set up, find themselves, against their will, at the very heart of any future thermonuclear war.

Already experience is showing that in those countries where the National Committees have been able to link the struggle against atomic war with the national interests, as in Japan, Italy, Argentina and many other countries, public opinion reacts immediately because it has been made to realise fully the dangers that are directly threatening it and the responsibility that each must assume if they are to be averted.

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The World Federation of Democratic Youth Supports

the Appeal of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace

The Executive Committee of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, which met in Berlin on February 25—28, issued an appeal to the young people of the entire world:

'On behalf of the millions of young men and women who are members of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the Executive Committee of the W.F.D.Y. gives its support to the decision of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace to organise a broad campaign against the preparation of atomic war and the revival of German militarism.

'Young people and youth organisations in all countries, hear our appeal!

— Take an active part in collecting signatures for the Appeal from the peoples of the world!

— Expose the deceptions of the enemies of peace who would like to convince us that atomic war is inevitable! Demand that the great possibilities of atomic energy be used for peaceful purposes!

— Organise conferences, demonstrations, processions, assemblies, meetings, cultural and sports events, frontier rallies, develop all forms of activity and means of struggle, according to the conditions of each country, in support of the decisions of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace!'

Australia: 119 Methodist Ministers

At a church conference in Melbourne, the Reverend Frank Hartley, joint Honorary Secretary of the Australian Peace Council, collected the signatures of 119 Methodist ministers.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Central Council of Trade Unions and the Soviet Writers' Union have issued statements supporting the Vienna Appeal.

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Three Archbishops of the Russian Old Orthodox Christian Church have issued an appeal calling on the faithful to oppose the preparations for atomic war.

Fourth Hungarian Peace Congress

The Fourth Hungarian Peace Congress ended its work on February 27 with an appeal to the Hungarian people to intensify the signature campaign, which has already begun in Hungary.

Messages to the World Council of Peace

The Secretariat of the World Council of Peace is receiving many messages hailing the opening of the great world campaign against the preparations for atomic war from peace committees, organisations, sport clubs, trade union branches, shop stewards' committees and others.

Here are a few extracts:

'On the occasion of their victories in Basle, the Budapest women's fencing team sends its best wishes for success to the World Council of Peace.'

'We portworkers of Genoa learned with enthusiasm of the resolution adopted by the World Council of Peace. Strong in the knowledge of the results obtained in the campaign for the Stockholm Appeal, the people of the port district pledge that they will do their utmost to get even better results and bring new sections of the people into the struggle against war.'

The workers in the unified agricultural co-operatives of the North Prague district of Czechoslovakia:

'We do not want our fertile fields to be turned into a battlefield; we do not want to exchange our tractors for tanks.'

A wood construction factory in Potsdam (German Democratic Republic):

'We firmly demand the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons wherever they may be and the immediate stopping of their manufacture.'

The Peace Council of Lower Austria:

'The province of Lower Austria suffered immense losses and damage during the last war. Confronted with the permanent danger of an atomic war, the people will be ready to support the Vienna Appeal.'

From Neusiedl-on-Zaya (Lower Austria):

'This joint conference of shop stewards' convenors, treasurers of the engineering, mining and chemical trade unions and representatives of the workers in the private oil companies, greets the decision of the World Council of Peace.'

There were also messages from the Peace Committee of the engineering factory of Sampierdarena and the Peace Committees of Genesestri and Riva sotto il Garda in Italy; the workers, foremen and technicians of the Torgau earthenware factory in the German Democratic Republic; and from the participants in a joint meeting of the Bulgarian Peace Committee and the National Council of the Fatherland Front in Bulgaria.

Eminent Figures Support the Vienna Appeal

Among the eminent figures who have recently given their support to the Appeal against the Preparations for Atomic War are the following:

Mr. Josué de Castro (Brazil), President of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation;

Mr. Abbas (Indonesia), Minister of Health, chairman of the Masjumi parliamentary group;

Mr. Wiwoho (Indonesia), leader of the Masjumi (Moslem Party);

General Carlos Garcia Velez (Cuba), former ambassador;

Mr. Arthur Lundkvist (Sweden), author;

Professor Walther Friedrich (German Democratic Republic), President of the Academy of Sciences;

Mr. Vicente Lombardo Toledano (Mexico), President of the Confederation of Latin American workers;

Mr. Saverio Brigante (Italy), first honorary president of the Court of Appeal;

Mr. Enrico Mole (Italy), independent senator, Vice-President of the Senate;

Princess Rosita Lanza di Scalea (Italy);

Mrs. Rosaura Revueltas (Mexico), film actress;

Miss Vanja Orico (Brazil), film actress.

Letter from 1000 French Teachers' Training College Students

The letter given below was written by a group of students in a French Teachers' Training College and sent to the French Prime Minister and members of parliament. It was signed by a thousand training college students, sixty engineering students and four college priests.

'Alarmed by the speed-up in the armaments race and the plans to use French atomic research for military purposes, we ask you most earnestly to prevent France from directing her nuclear research to the manufacture of atomic weapons, but rather to aim at putting France at the head of the nations in the peaceful use of atomic energy and in general disarmament.

'We are ready to give our fullest support to a policy of economic and social progress, and are thus all the more opposed to France's entry into the armaments race in any way whatsoever.'

Declaration by the French Movement 'Pax Christi'

The following resolution was adopted at the last meeting of the National Council of the 'Pax Christi' movement:

'We members of the National Executive Council of Pax Christi and regional delegates, meeting in Paris on December 18 and 19, 1954,

'convinced, on the basis of our Christian principles and of well-founded observations by French atomic scientists, that France which, up till now, has concerned itself with the peaceful industrial use of atomic energy, could not start the manufacture of A and H bombs without grievously repudiating its mission in the world,

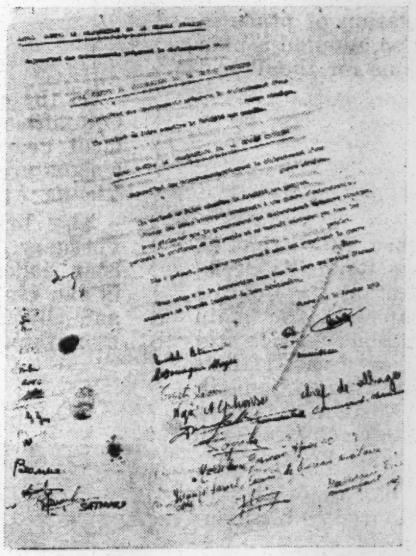
'express the hope that this orientation towards the peaceful use of atomic energy will be firmly maintained.

'In voicing this hope and making it public, we are sure that we are acting in conformity with the often expressed wishes of the Pope relative to the new methods of war, particularly the use of A.B.C. weapons by any power whatsoever.'

The World Campaign against the Preparations for Atomic War

The First Signatures in Dolisia

(Central Congo)



On February 9, in Dolisia in the Central Congo, a number of friends of peace met in the house of one of them to set up a Peace Committee. Those present were of different views and walks of life and the discussion dealt with two questions: German rearmament and the threat of atomic war. It was decided to open the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal immediately. The gathering also approved the World Council's decision to call a World Assembly for Peace.

Mr. Kikhunga-Ngot, a territorial councillor for the Central Congo, one of the secretaries of the new committee, writes that the setting up of the Peace Committee is the starting-point for many others in this area.

As we go to press, in addition to the countries mentioned on pages 3, 4, 5 and 6, the campaign was being carried on in Bulgaria, Chile, Finland, Holland, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Lebanon Mexico, Mongolia and Poland.

At the end of the meeting, the participants signed the Vienna Appeal and Mr. Kikhunga-Ngot sent a typed list of these first signatures to the World Council. They include a village chief, an official of the French Confederation of Christian Workers, African doctors, tradesmen, civil servants and workers. Some of those who gave their support to the Appeal put their thumbprint on the sheet, for this is the only way in which many people in the Central Congo can express in black and white their pledge to defend peace.

BRAZIL

How the Campaign is Being Organised

The signature campaign was officially opened on March 1st at big public meetings in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, the State capitals and major towns of Brazil.

The National Council of the Peace Movement had decided to start the collection of signatures on that date so as to devote the whole of February to the preparation and thorough organisation of the campaign. It was at a meeting of the National Council on February 5 and 6 that the various stages of this preparation were decided on.

In order to warn public opinion of the dangers involved in the preparations for atomic war a series of lectures was arranged; they were given by Mr. Jacques Danon, an atomic physicist, and a former collaborator of Professor Joliot-Curie; Mr. Romulo Argentier, scientist; Mr. Evandro Lins e Silva, lawyer, and others. A press campaign was carried on simultaneously.

A national sponsoring committee, composed of eminent figures in the political, cultural, religious and economic spheres, was set up to make the opening of the signature campaign more effective. To make the contacts necessary for the formation of this committee a small sub-committee of the Brazilian Peace Movement was formed with the following members: Mr. Abel Chermont; Mr. Josue de Castro, President of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation; Monsignor Hipolito Costabile, Papal Protonotary; Bishop Cesar Dacorso, head of the Methodist Church; Mr. Frota Moreira M.P. and Mr. Abguar Bastos M.P.; and Mr. Jorge Amado, member of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace.

Similar sponsoring committees were set up on a local level.

At the same time there was a veritable mobilisation of the Peace Movement.

The National Council also decided to call a National Assembly for Peace on April 1st, 2nd and 3rd in preparation for the World Assembly. The signature campaign will then have been going on for a month and it will be possible to give a first report on how it is proceeding.

They Signed while Crossing the Alps

Returning from Vienna to Japan by air after the extended January meeting of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace, Mr. Kaoru Yasui, General Secretary of the Japanese National Council against A and H bombs, collected a number of signatures for the Vienna Appeal as the plane in which he was travelling crossed the Alps on the way to Zurich.

He was reading a newspaper when he found the text of the Appeal on one of its pages. Immediately, Mr. Yasui, a citizen of the country which has already experienced atomic death and devastation, Japan, showed the Appeal to his fellow passengers, asking them to sign on the newspaper. They did so without exception.

Thousands of Signatures in Italy

There were mass rallies and demonstrations throughout Italy on Sunday, February 13, the day on which the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal was opened.

By the following day 24,000 signatures had been collected in the province of Ragusa, 21,000 in the province of Catania and 3,000 at Gela. At Legnano, 550 of the 600 employees at a textile factory signed the Appeal, while at Sesto San Giovanni 5,000 signatures were collected in a few hours.

The owner of a textile factory in Novara signed the Appeal along with the workers; half the population signed.

The Italian Peace Movement is becoming stronger and wider in the course of the campaign. A Milan priest, Father Faustino Denti, who attended the meeting of the provincial Peace Council, said:

'I look upon it as my duty to be with you. I see that here alonside me are men and women who do not want war and are prepared to fight against it.'

At Montepulciano there was a mass demonstration in which more than 600 peasants and agricultural labourers took part. The resolution adopted demands 'that the Italian Senate reject the London and Paris Agreements, which would lead to the revival of German militarism and the launching of atomic war'. There have been many demonstrations in Liguria, Lombardy, Le Marche and Calabria.

There is a continual flow of workers' deputations from every part of the country to the Senate, demanding that the Senators reject the London and Paris Agreements.

The municipal councils of Civita Vecchia, San Geminiano Calcinaia, Cerleone, Pietra Santa and Campofranco have adopted resolutions demanding the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons and a ban on their manufacture.

The Ferrara and Forli county councils, and the municipal councils of Segrate, Genzano, Rombiolo, Fiorenzuola d'Arda, and San Severo have adopted the Vienna Appeal.

THE CAMPAIGN OPENS

Viet Nam

A meeting of the Viet Nam Peace Committee was held in Hanoi on February 4. It was attended by several hundred delegates from North and South Viet Nam, representing the different sections of the population: intellectual circles, artists, industrialists and merchants.

The decisions of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace were warmly welcomed and the session decided to open the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal.

A programme of activity for 1955 has been drawn up for the consolidation of peace in Indo-China. The session also adopted a plan of work for the preparations for the World Assembly for Peace.

Argentine

The Argentine Peace Council has decided to begin the collection of signatures to the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war immediately throughout the whole country. This campaign will follow up the many actions for the banning of atomic weapons which have been organised in Argentine these last months, not only by the Peace Movement but by wide sections of opinion.

The Council emphasises that this campaign must obtain better results than any previous campaign and that there must, in particular, be a big increase in the number of signatures collected. Signature-collecting forms bearing the text of the Vienna Appeal were immediately printed.

In Buenos Aires, January 28 — that is, before the National Peace Council's decision — was observed as 'Action Day for the Banning of Atomic Weapons'. The main thoroughfares of the capital and particularly busy spots were literally flooded with leaflets put out by the Buenos Aires Peace Council: for example, Florida and Corrientes streets, Once, Constitucion and Flores squares, and the districts of Belgrano and Boca.

At the termini of the bus routes to the suburbs leaflets were distributed and banners displayed. In Liniers, one of the working-class districts, and in Primera Junta Square, leaflets were rained down on people waiting for buses. Leaflets were also distributed during the rush hours on the platforms of the underground and main line railway stations.

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Syria

At an extended meeting in Damascus, the Syrian Peace Committee approved the decision of the World Council of Peace to launch a world signature campaign against the preparations for atomic war. The campaign was opened immediately and the Committee called on all friends of peace to carry it through on a vast scale in the towns and villages and amoung all sections of the people, so as to show the whole world that the Syrian people demand the banning of weapons of mass destruction with the greatest firmness.

The Argentine Peace Council also issued a political statement on the situation in the Far East, demanding an end to the provocation of China over Formosa. The statement asks the Argentine people to demonstrate their support for the Chinese people.

Telegrams demanding the rejection of the London and Paris Agreements were sent to the Council of the Republic in France.

Lastly, the Council decided to hold demonstrations in opposition to the arrival of a United States military mission in Argentine.

Uruguay

On February 14, the Uruguayan Peace Council declared open the campaign for the collection of signatures to the Vienna Appeal, and a national peace conference to discuss the tasks of the Peace Movement in the present international situation was called for the month of April. The Uruguayan delegates to the World Assembly for Peace will be elected at this conference.

Mr. Ricardo Sanguinetti, president of the General Union of Workers, stated: 'I, and every worker, consider that the use of atomic bombs would be a crime against mankind ... We workers hate war, which nobody wants, we must join our voices to the Appeal of the World Council of Peace and support the signature campaign launched by the National Peace Council.'

Mr. Rosario Pietraroia, secretary of the Engineers' Union, stated that his trade union would go into action to ensure success for the aims of the National Peace Council.

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The Uruguayan Peace Council also sent a telegram to the Council of the Republic in France asking it to reject the Paris Agreements. At the same time it called on the people to demonstrate their opposition to the revival of German militarism. Twice a week, open air metings with loudspeaker vans are held in the various districts of Montevideo. The speakers denounce the Paris Agreements and the Uruguay-United States pact and explain the need to send a very representative Uruguayan delegation to the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki.

600,000 Signatures in Albania

By February 24, more than 600,000 signatures had been collected in Albania.

In several parts of the country the whole adult population approved the Vienna Appeal.

Rumania

At the call of the Rumanian Peace Committee a great many members of local Peace Committees have started a signature-collecting campaign for the Vienna Appeal.

The first check showed that by February 13, 418,000 signatures had been collected in Bucharest, 133,000 in the Cluj area, 86,000 in the towns and villages of the Jassy district and more than 280,000 in the Craiova area.

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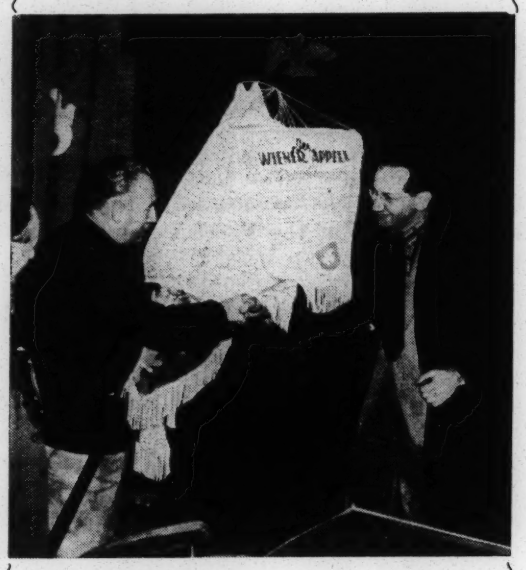

Before the Austrian Peace Council had signature forms printed and distributed, the Peace Committee of the Rehberg shoe factory, near Krems, started collecting signatures on flags bearing the text of the Vienna Appeal — the 630 workers and office staff of the factory signed. The flags were then tied together in the form of a sheaf and were handed, together with a peace flag, to the Austrian Peace Council at a little ceremony.

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A Shadow that Gives Food for Thought

'About 500 yards from the centre of the explosion is a bank; its steps have been enclosed with a simple fence. If you look inside this fence you will see the dark shadow of a man. A man had obviously been sitting on the steps of the premises meditating, resting his hand on his cheek, his elbow on his knee. The blast of the explosion had come in this direction, throwing the shadow of this man on to the steps: of course he had died on the spot from the intense radioactivity. The dark shadow is still sitting there meditating ...'

Extracts from the preface to *Children of the Atom Bomb* by Dr. Arata Osada, Professor at Hiroshima University.

A Quarter of the World's Population in the Campaign against Atomic Weapons

'The Chinese People wholeheartedly support the resolutions of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace and will make them a reality through active and concrete work.'

By February 26, more than 21 million Chinese had signed the Appeal. In Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai the whole adult population had signed; in Anshan, the centre of Chinese heavy industry, 600,000 signatures had been collected; in Fushun the figure was 150,000 and in Inner Mongolia more than 100,000.

The campaign was officially launched throughout China on February 14, although the collection had actually begun on the 13th in such big cities as Shanghai and Wuhan. There was a meeting in the former city on the morning of the 13th, at which 2,301 people representing all sections of the population studied the decisions of the Standing Committee of the Chinese Peace Movement and inaugurated the campaign by signing the Vienna Appeal. At the first check on February 21, 5,108,698 signatures had been collected.

The campaign went off to a flying start in Wuhan when the workers of the cotton mill lined up to sign at the numerous booths and tables specially set up for the campaign. In the queue were mothers with babies in their arms and a 73-year-old grandmother whose son and daughter both work at the mill. Out of ten children born to her, eight died before the liberation, some in war, others because of poverty.

'I have known enough sorrow,' she said, 'nothing must stop our present joyful progress.'

People signing in Tibet. The Dalai Lama, the Panchem Lama and a number of members of the Tibetan Government signed the Appeal and gave their support to the world campaign against the preparations for atomic war.

Among the National Minorities

The campaign was opened in the multi-national province of Yunnan on February 14 at a meeting attended by representatives of 28 national minorities.

Students from 48 different nationalities studying in the Central Institute for National Minorities signed the appeal to ban the use of atomic weapons at a gathering in Peking.

Dressed in their colourful national costumes, the 2,000 students, including Hans, Uighurs, Tibetans, Koreans, Mongolians, Miaos and Kaoshans, packed the hall to pledge their support for the world-wide campaign against weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Abduupul Imin, an Uighur student, told the gathering:

'We all wish to build our country into a beautiful land. We want to live a peaceful and ever fuller live. We hate war because it will bring only bloodshed and suffering.'

Survivor of Atomic Bombing Urges Ban on A Bomb

Scarcely two days after the campaign was launched, 526,000 signatures had been collected in Peking.

University staff and students queued up in thousands to sign. In one such queue stood physics lecturer Mr. Yu Ming-cheh, who survived the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

He spoke of his terrible memories:

'I was studying at the University of Arts and Sciences in Hiroshima in 1945. I had been caught in the war and was not able to get back to China.'

He was working in a dark room of the university's laboratory, which was in a ferro-concrete building, on the morning of that fateful day when the atom bomb went off.

'I ran out into the street after the violent gust created by the bomb blast had knocked me down. The city was an inferno. All round were dead or dying, their clothes burnt to ash, their skin charred by the 2,000 degrees of heat generated by the bomb. Fires raged for five days and nights. The once beautiful city became rubble.'

Workers in the iron and steel, engineering and textile industries, miners and 1,300 railwaymen organised meetings to rally new forces for the campaign. The campaign was also launched at many construction sites. Signing his name, Mr. Li Shih-fu, a civil engineer, said:

'We are building a great theatre in the capital, the pride of the people of Peking. We shall put up many more magnificent buildings. We'll never allow the aggressors to destroy mankind's happy life.'

By February 21, only a week after the launching of the campaign in Peking, 2,750,000 people, including, 1,100,000 women, had signed the Appeal.

Mrs. Tang Ven-tseng, mother of 13 children, said as she signed:

'It is the natural duty of mothers to protect their children and to bring them up in peace.'

On February 14:

— A mass rally was held in the port of Foochow. 1,300 representatives from all parts of Fukien signed their names on the spot. The campaign, headed by a former Kuomintang admiral, quickly developed throughout the city following the rally.

— The Second Trade Union Congress in Canton passed a resolution supporting the Appeal on behalf of the 250,000 workers of the city. The 400 delegates attending the Congress signed the Appeal. Six days later, on February 20, 800,000 people had signed in the city.

— In Chengteh, the capital of Jehol province, more than half the population signed in a single day. The total number of signatures reached 62,580.

— Lamas of eight big temples in Huhehot, capital of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, also joined the signature campaign on February 14.

Eminent Public Figures in the Campaign

In addition to mass activity, eminent public figures of different walks of life are stating their support for the campaign. Mr. Chen Shu-tung, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Committee for World Peace wrote in the *People's Daily* of February 15:

'The Chinese people will struggle resolutely alongside all other peace-loving peoples against atomic war and the use of atomic weapons . . .

'The Chinese people wholeheartedly support the resolutions of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace and will make them a reality through active and concrete work.'

Mr. Kao Shi-chi, a bacteriologist and a victim of paralysis, attended a meeting of one thousand scientific workers in Peking to make his contribution to the campaign against weapons of mass destruction. He lost his health 30 years ago while working in the United States on ways of conquering the germs of fatal diseases. A 72-year-old botanist, Mr. Chien Chung-shu, was also there to register his support for the Appeal. Chi Pai-shih, the 95-year-old painter, said at a meeting of literary and art circles, on February 17:

'All old people throughout the world love peace and serenity, their homes, their children and grandchildren. Therefore they oppose the evil atomic bomb. That is why I have signed the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war.'

At one of the 600 meetings to collect signatures held in Peking, a 105-year-old woman, who had insisted on being taken there, said: 'I too am against the bomb.'

THE CAMPAIGN OPENS

Canada

At a ceremony in the Banquet Room in the historic Walker House, members of the National Council of the Canadian Peace Congress signed the World Appeal against the preparations for atomic war. The ceremony symbolised the launching in Canada of an intensive effort in all sections of the country to solicit signatures to the Appeal.

Dr. Endicott, who attended the meeting of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace in Vienna, was the first Canadian to sign the Appeal. At a meeting of the National Council of the Peace Congress, neld on February 5 and 6, Dr. Endicott pointed out that the Appeal 'can be signed with a clear conscience by supporters of every political party and religious faith in Canada and any other country'.

After a very full discussion, Mrs. Eva Sanderson of Toronto, member of the World Council of Peace, was the second Canadian to sign the Appeal and it was then signed by 24 more peace spokesmen of various views and faiths from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

The meeting decided that the opening of the mass soliciting of signatures from the public would be marked by a national distribution of several hundred thousand copies of the text of the Appeal on Saturday, March 5. Many personalities and organisations will be invited to endorse it.

The bulk of the signatures will be collected by several thousand volunteer canvassers who will knock on doors in all parts of Canada. The petition will also be circulated in factories and on farms and the public is being invited to finance this vast campaign through donations.

The National Council adopted a statement which says that 'the policy founded on the division of the world into blocs, of seeking solutions through force or threat of force, has now reached the point

— where full-scale preparations are being made for the catastrophe of atomic war, which we are being asked to accept as inevitable, with the use of atomic weapons to be regarded as legitimate and normal;

— where the attempt is being made to remilitarise Germany against its will, despite the clear opposition of majority opinion in Canada and every other country that would be a victim . . .

'Under these circumstances

1) Each person of goodwill may most effectively act against the nuclear destruction of our cities by signing the World Appeal against the preparations for atomic war, issued in Vienna on January 19, 1955. This Appeal is being circulated in all countries in order to allow mankind to speak with one voice.

2) All views and tendencies in Canada should be represented by qualified spokesmen at the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki commencing May 22. In this way Canada will share in shaping a mightier effort of the peoples to banish war.'

Switzerland

The National Conference of the Swiss Peace Movement was held in Lausanne on February 13. Sixty delegates from the factories, villages and localities of the districts of Basle, Zurich, La Chaux de Fonds, Locle, Yverdon, Locarno, Berne, Geneva and Lausanne were present, as also was Mrs. Isabelle Blume, secretary of the World Council of Peace.

After listening to the report, which was given by Professor A. Bonnard, the delegates took part in a lively discussion on how to rally the democratic forces of the country on a large scale and took steps to launch the signature campaign throughout the country. The Conference pledged that twice as many signatures would be gathered as for the Stockholm Appeal.

Czechoslovakia

The Czechoslovak Peace Committee met in Prague on February 10, together with representatives of the branches of the National Front and cultural and public figures.

Academician Jan Mukarovsky, member of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace, gave a report on the meeting of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace in Vienna, January 17-19. The Secretary of the Committee then presented a report on the organisation of the signature campaign against atomic war.

A thorough discussion followed, at the end of which Mrs. Fucikova presented an appeal of the Czechoslovak Peace Committee for the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal.

The appeal says in part:

'The hordes who destroyed Lidice, and who tried to destroy and set on fire our city of Prague during the very last days of the war, are now to be given atomic weapons . . .

'The Czechoslovak Peace Committee fully approves the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war issued by the Bureau of the World Council of Peace. It announces the opening of a national signature campaign for this Appeal — which will go on from February 28 to March 27, 1955 — and asks all the citizens of the Republic to sign it in the interests of maintaining peace.'

The Central Committee of the National Front and the Central Trade Union Council join in this appeal.

In accordance with the decisions of the Czechoslovak Peace Committee, the national signature campaign will prepare the ground for the National Peace Congress which is to be held in Prague in April. It will also help in the preparation of the World Assembly for Peace.

● *So that All Japanese Shall Sign*

The Standing Committee of the Japanese Peace Committee met on February 12, heard a report from Mr. Kaoru Yasui, who took part in the meeting of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace, and decided to take the following measures:

1. To make the Vienna Appeal known and to explain to the people the pressing danger of atomic war.

2. To approach organisations and personalities to get their support for the Vienna Appeal.

3. To collect for the appeal against the preparation for atomic war the signatures of those who have not yet signed the national petition against atomic and hydrogen bombs, so that there will not be a single Japanese who has not given his signature.

4. To hold meetings of all active peace workers at the beginning of March, that is, after the general election on February 27, in order to strengthen the movement against atomic war and for the World Assembly.

● *Why Spaniards Should Take Part in the Campaign*

In a resolution, the Spanish Peace Commission has approved the Vienna Appeal and called for support for the signature campaign against the preparations for atomic war. The resolution contains interesting details on the reasons why Spaniards should take part in this campaign.

'The Spanish people are directly interested in the success of this important campaign, for the danger of an atomic war is a very real threat to Spain.

'The use of our country as a base for atomic aggression has been put on the agenda . . .'

The bases which have been constructed in Spain 'are destined for the launching of atomic projectiles against other countries; this would inevitably result in terrible reprisals . . .

'Every signature to the World Council's Appeal against atomic war is an act which has positive results, for it is but one of millions and millions of signatures, which together form an irresistible force . . .

'Moreover, for Spaniards, every signature is a demonstration against the pact (*the Washington-Madrid bilateral pact Ed.*) which permits the organisation of atomic war on our territory.'

The Spanish Peace Commission had signature forms printed and the collection of signatures was immediately begun.

Denmark

Statement on N.A.T.O. Decision

The Executive Committee of the Danish National Peace Association handed to the press and to M.P.s a statement on the N.A.T.O. Council decision. The statement points out that the decision, which was taken with Denmark's agreement, has evil consequences for the peoples of Europe — consequences which have been hidden from the people of Denmark.

It also notes that the N.A.T.O. decision is opposed to the efforts to bring about a reduction of armaments and for international control. It concludes by calling on the people and politicians to study attentively the grave danger of a new Wehrmacht with atomic weapons at its disposal.

Great meetings are to be held in Copenhagen at the time of the debate in Parliament on the Paris Agreements.

American Mothers do not Want their Sons to Die on Foreign Soil

Foreign intervention in the territorial waters of the People's Republic of China and in the Chinese island of Taiwan, has met with a strong reaction from the people of the United States.

Republican Congressman Eugene Sik[illegible] of [illegible] government's proposal for intervention in China's internal affairs, said he did so because he had promised the mothers of his district he would not **'vote to engage their boys in war on foreign soil'.**

In Washington, fifty pickets representing the Catholic Workers, the Peacemakers, the War Resisters' League and the Philadelphia section of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, marched in front of the White House carrying placards saying **'Stop the drift toward war'.**

According to the **San Francisco** People's World of February 2, the workers of the General Motors, Chrysler and other automobile factories in the United States have voiced their opposition to American intervention in Taiwan and other Chinese islands.

In response to a call of the **Los Angeles** Labour Youth League, American workers and their trade unions are writing to President Eisenhower demanding **'No more Koreas!'**

In Chicago, house meetings have been held from which hundreds of telegrams were sent to Congressmen and to the Executive Committee meeting of an important trade union local.

In Los Angeles, the Southern California Peace Crusade called on all organisations and individuals to attend an Emergency Action Conference on January 29.

In Kalispell, Montana, a number of peace workers' letters to Senators Mansfeld and Murray received a telegram reply: **'Appreciate having your views [illegible] Eisenhower Formosa proposal.'**

In New York, thousands of people were urged through chain telephone calls to send letters to the President and to Congressmen. There were also deputations to Congressmen and postcards were sent to the President and to the Senators. A leaflet, calling on the people to take action in view of the danger created by intervention in China's territorial waters, was widely distributed.

Similar actions have taken place in **Palo Alto,** California and in **Philadelphia, Detroit and New Jersey.**

The American Peace Crusade issued a statement calling for:

1. Deputations and individual visits to Congressmen.

2. The continued sending of postcards and letters.

3. The distribution of the Crusade's leaflets.

4. The sending of letters to the local papers.

5. The placing of advertisements in the local papers.

GREAT BRITAIN: People Oppose Decision to make H Bomb

On February 18, the British Government announced its intention to manufacture hydrogen bombs — only two days after it had published a White Paper outlining its proposals for the peaceful use of atomic energy in Britain.

The immediate reaction of the British people to the news was one of horror and determination to stop the manufacture of these bombs. Many public figures at once announced their opposition to the Government's decision and demanded the banning of all atomic weapons.

For example the Rev. Dr. Donald Soper, president of the Methodist Conference for 1954: 'I am more than disturbed that our country is contemplating manufacture of the H bomb. All peace-loving nations should seize the first proposal for banning nuclear weapons.'

The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Aldermann J. Fennell, stated 'I stand for the abolition of these weapons by international agreement.'

The Ayrshire County Council in Scotland has protested against the decision to manufacture H bombs. More than 100 Labour Members of Parliament have tabled a motion in the House of Commons calling for Four Power talks on the H bomb and on German rearmament, and are pressing for a debate. This is a direct reflection of the activity which has been organised throughout the country on the initiative of the peace movement.

The campaign against atomic weapons and the decisions of N.A.T.O. is being closely linked with the campaign against German rearmament. Following up the magnificent demonstration on January 25 when thousands of people from all over Britain lobbied their M.P.s on the question of German rearmament, an all-London conference was organised by the London Peace Federation on February 20 to discuss German rearmament and the peaceful alternative, the banning of weapons of mass destruction and preparations for the World Assembly for Peace.

Direct pressure has been put on Labour M.P.s to stand out against the rearming of Germany, by letters, telegrams, deputations and petitions. In three Sheffield factories 175 people signed a petition, in Leeds 400, in Exeter 800, in West Hartlepool 1,600 and in Glasgow 1,370. In West Ham, 400 people signed a giant postcard which was taken to Churchill by their Labour M.P., Mr. Arthur Lewis, and a similar postcard is being signed in Hampstead, London.

The Midlands Regional Committee of the Labour Party (one of the biggest area Labour Party organisations in the country) has called on all its branches to oppose German rearmament, and the Midlands district committee of the National Union of Furniture Trade Operatives has asked its branches to send resolutions on the question to the Labour Party, the Trade Union Congress and the executive committee of the trade union.

The Sheffield district committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union has called for support for the M.P.s who oppose the rearming of Germany, and the Edinburgh district committee of the Union of Post Office Workers has condemned the support of its executive committee for German rearmament, and demanded a plebiscite of the union's members on the subject.

At the end of January the British Peace Committee called for local and regional conferences to be organised in all parts of the country. An all-Scotland conference against German rearmament has been called by the Scottish District of the Fire Brigades Union and the Union for Democratic Control, and similar conferences are being held by two trades councils and two trade union branches in Scotland. A highly successful 'No Arms for Germany' conference was held in Edmonton, North London, called by the Brimsdown Power Station shop stewards' committee and attended by Labour Party councillors and delegates from trade unions and other organisations. The deputy mayor of Edmonton was in the chair and the conference was addressed by a Labour M.P.

February 9 was observed as 'Telegram and Telephone Day'. On that day, hundreds of telegrams poured in to Members of Parliament and the telephone lines to the House of Commons were so jammed with callers wanting to speak to their M.P.s to [illegible] that they oppose German rearmament, for the whole day normal telephone communication with the House became impossible.

At the same time as the British people are conducting the joint fight against atomic war and German rearmament, they are also actively opposing any attempts to start a war in the Far East. Many trade union branches and other organisations have passed resolutions demanding that Britain should not be dragged into war over Formosa, and the General Secretary of the National Association of Stevedores and Dockers has announced that 'in the event of hostilities involving China breaking out, his members would not load ships going to that area.'

Preparing the World Assembly

A view of the Parliament (centre) with the National Museum on the right and the Sibelius Academy of Music in the left background.

The Spanish Delegation's Mandate

The last number of the Bulletin contained an article on the Spanish Peace Commission's plan of work in preparation for the World Assembly.

We give in this issue an extract from an appeal in which the Commission explains how and in what spirit the Spanish delegation to the World Assembly will be mandated. The Appeal is addressed to the men and women of Spain and to those who are living in exile. The Commission first analyses the international situation and shows the danger of a conflict for Spain. If then goes on:

'The contribution to be made by the Spanish delegation at the World Assembly in Helsinki, where they will explain our country's situation and the way to solve it, must correspond to the national character of the problem. The Spanish representatives will be the delegates of the forces for peace in Spain, both those in the Peace Movement and those who share its aims without being members of it. The important thing is that they should make our people's voice heard — our people who are suffering from the consequences of the war preparations and want to save themselves from destruction.

'If these representatives are to express the real desires of the men and women of Spain, their mandate must obviously come from the heart of the Spanish nation. The call for the World Assembly must reach every man and woman in Spain, on every morsel of land, at every factory bench, at every office desk, at every laboratory table and in every university lecture room.

'The united voice of the Spanish people must be heard at family meetings, at small gatherings in blocks of flats and at street and locality meetings in the towns and villages, as circumstances permit. Thus will the voice of Spain, through the medium of the resolutions adopted at these meetings, find powerful expression at the World Assembly for Peace.'

'The Peace Movement has extended its roots during these last two years. We have great hopes that forces which have not yet worked effectively with us will be present and that we shall there be able to find a common road to follow in the struggle for peace.

'In my opinion, the campaign against weapons of mass destruction is the best preparation for the World Assembly.'

Mr. Antoine Tabet (Lebanon), Member of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace

GREAT BRITAIN

Invitation Sent out to 3

The preparations for the World Assembly for Peace basis in Britain. An invitation to take part has been country in a letter which says:

'A meeting of this character, we belive, is very nec of all... Preparations for atomic war are being pres Wehrmacht in West Germany. The policy of dividin situations which could become detonators of a war fo world scale, by a powerful movement of the people, can governments back to the conference table, and ensure other's welfare and security.'

The arrangements for the Assembly, including the co been announced, and various materials have been prod including a leaflet giving details both of the Assembly a on Germany and the threat of atomic war, which re notebooks in which messages to the Assembly may be c collecting tins, and attractively produced books of rec towards the costs of the local campaign.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretariat of the South African Peace Council has issued a call to peace committees to hold hundreds of small meetings and to get branches of trade unions and political organisations to have discussions on the World Assembly to be held in Helsinki on May 22.

The Council has also approached various prominent persons and important organisations such as the African National Congress, the Labour and Liberal parties and the National Council of Women.

...bly: Helsinki, May 22, 1955

...o 30,000 Organisations

...P ...eace are being carried through on a very wide
...s ...been sent to 30,000 organisations throughout the

...very necessary at this time, and merits the support
...ing pressed ahead; so are the plans to rebuild the
... dividing the world into opposing blocs is creating
... war fought with nuclear weapons ... Action on a
...ple, can avert these dangers, bring the leaders of the
... ensure that all nations co-operate to promote each

...ng the cost of sending delegates from Britain, have
...een produced to help in the campaign for delegates,
...sembly and of the World Council of Peace; a leaflet
...which refers to the Assembly; labels for fixing to
...may be collected and donations recorded; labels for
...ks of receipts to be given in return for donations

Conference in Burma

The All Burma Peace Committee has called an extended conference of the Burmese Peace Movement for March 18, 19 and 20 in Rangoon. One of the points on the agenda is the preparation of the World Assembly for Peace.

It is estimated that there will be 500 delegates at the conference, including 40 from the All Burma Peace Committee, 60 from the District Peace Committees, 100 from the township Peace Committees, 200 from the village Peace Committees and 100 guests.

Three reports will be presented:
1) The objectives, principles and forms of organisation of the Peace Movement in Burma.
2) The development of the Peace Movement throughout the world and the work of the World Council of Peace.
3) The present situation in Asia and the tasks of the Peace Movement in Burma.

These reports were printed at the beginning of February and distributed to all peace committees and mass organisations for discussion before the conference.

The All Burma Committee is also publishing a *Peace Gazette* in preparation for this National Conference.

A view of the port and market of Helsinki, where fish, vegetables, flowers and fruit are sold.

The Japanese People Will Elect their Representatives on May 7—9

The Japanese Peace Committee has published the following appeal for the National Assembly for Peace which will be held on May 7—9:

'A World Assembly for Peace will be held on May 22—29 in Helsinki, called by the World Council of Peace.

'We hope that many delegates from Japan will participate in this Assembly where peace-loving people from all over the world will gather together.

'Today, peace is in danger and the risk of an atomic war exists both in Europe and in Asia. As a result of the remilitarisation of West Germany, the decision of the N.A.T.O. Council to prepare for atomic war, the formation of S.E.A.T.O. and the military measures taken by the U.S.A. to "defend" Formosa. In such a situation, the World Assembly is of great importance ...

'Men and women of Japan! Let us participate in the World Assembly, to ban the A and H bombs and to win the world for peaceful co-existence.

'Everywhere and in every organisation, meet together and discuss how we can defend peace and what problems we should discuss with the other peoples of the world. From these meetings aim to send representatives.

'A Japanese National Assembly for Peace will be held on May 7—9.'

TUNISIA

In order to lay the foundations for a big Tunisian delegation to the World Assembly for Peace, the Tunisian Peace Committee has organised a series of meetings in factories and localities throughout the country. These meetings elect delegates to a National Assembly which, in turn, will elect the delegates to the World Assembly.

Recently, the Committee held an information meeting on the World Assembly which was attended by more than 50 people. A number of newspapers have published the resolutions of the Stockholm session of the World Council and of the extended meeting of the Bureau in Vienna, particularly the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war. A plenary meeting of the Tunisian Peace Committee was called to launch the signature campaign officially.

'Never has the highest body of the universal movement for peace borne such a high responsibility as it does at the present time. This is the most critical moment for the fate of mankind. The rearming of the German Nazis and the N.A.T.O. decision to use atomic weapons from the beginning of a war — and these two facts constitute one single problem — represent the greatest threat that mankind has ever had to face. So today more than ever the peoples of the world without exception are waiting for a lead from the highest body of the universal movement for peace. Hundreds of meetings in the greatest crusade that history has ever known in order to stay the hand of these who want war. I am fully convinced that the Assembly will be the decisive step, made necessary by the decisive nature of the danger, which will bring into action the great and all-powerful force for peace that exists in the conscience of mankind, thus bringing to naught the most evil intentions that history has ever witnessed.'

Professor Luis Vidales (Colombia), writer and university professor

The Olympic Stadium in Helsinki where the sportmen of the whole world competed in a spirit of brotherhood and friendship at the last Olympic Games.

Helsinki will soon see the arrival of the delegates to the World Assembly for Peace, coming from every corner of the world to defend peace.

International Day on March 10

In the countries of Europe March 10 was observed as 'a day of international action against the Paris Agreements and the revival of German militarism and of active solidarity with the workers of the whole of Germany and among the workers of all Europe'.

In its appeal to the workers of Europe, the World Federation of Trade Unions asked 'the men and women workers of Europe' to mark March 10 by meetings, petitions, mass demonstrations and 'to ensure the success of this International Day which will be an effective contribution to the strengthening of the World Peace Movement by ensuring the success of the campaign against those who are preparing atomic war, for collective security, disarmament and peace'.

Action Week in France

In France, the action week from February 14 to 20 gave a new stimulus to the French people's struggle against the Paris agreements.

Here we can only give a brief outline of the many and varied forms of action which were carried through in the course of this week.

Deputations

Hundreds of deputations went to the senators to express their constituents' desire for peace. A few examples:

In Warrennes, in the north of France, a deputation took 2,000 signatures to one of the senators. The workers of the Marchal factory in the Seine Department stopped work for an hour and sent a petition to the senators for the Department. Ninety-five per cent of the workers of the central repair depot of the Paris buses and underground trains showed, in a ballot, their determination that German militarism should not be revived.

Many senators have stated that they would refuse to ratify the Paris treaties, and the countless declarations of opposition by members of the electoral colleges of the Council of the Republic were determining factors in this decision. The following is an incomplete list of the departmental and local elected representatives who have stated their opposition to German rearmament to date: 221 county councillors, 2,745 mayors and 13,070 municipal councillors of all political parties. In certain departments, this movement of local elected representatives is very powerful; for example, in Dordogne, 154 mayors have stated their opposition to the Paris agreements. One can therefore understand why senators are responding favourably.

Demonstrations

There have been ceremonies in front of the war memorials and the plaques in commemoration of the victims of war and fascism. At Vitry, in the Seine Department, for example, 116 local personalities issued a call, as a result of which many people marched to the war memorial with the Ex-servicemen at their head. Big rallies and meetings were also held. In Paris, the students' peace committees organised a meeting and at a big rally in the Renault factory (37,000 workers) in Boulogne-Billancourt, m litant workers belonging to all the trade union centres gave a report-back of a trip to West Germany to meet German trade unionists.

Peace caravans were also organised. In the Gironde Department, for example, 33 cars bearing the names of local peace committees lined up and drove to the residences of the senators.

Atomic War

Meanwhile, the recent N.A.T.O. decisions to give the Atlantic army nuclear weapons and the alarmist campaign of certain newspaper are giving rise to a growing number of actions against the preparations for atomic war. During and since the action week, many meetings, conferences, and assemblies have been held for the banning and destruction of atomic weapons.

An example of initiative in the Bouches du Rhône Department should be mentioned. A series of 50 meetings is being organised at which the 'Children of Hiroshima' will be shown, together with a talk on the preparations for atomic war.

Scientific workers and doctors have taken steps to bring research workers, scientists and members of the medical profession into action against atomic weapons and for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

New Opportunities

The many demonstrations during and after the action week enabled many contacts to be made and have thus created new opportunities. For example, in a number of factories in the north and east of France, appeals demanding that an international worker's conference against German rearmament should be held, are being signed by workers belonging to all the trade union centres.

At the same time, the National Assembly of Organisations and Tendencies for Peace, to be held on April 2 and 3, is being actively prepared at a large number of meetings and through the mass media. A card by the artist Jean Effel has been specially published for this purpose.

Petitions to the Senate in Belgium

Belgian opposition to the rearming of Germany continues to show itself in the most varied forms. The miners of Boussoit sent a letter of support to the General Secretary of the German Federation of Trade Unions. It says:

'We are writing to you on behalf of miners' families in three districts of Boussoit, 85, 90 and 100 per cent of whom respectively signed our petitions. Now we know that our German comrades are at our side . . . we are sure that we shall win the day . . .'

The Young Socialist Guard of Forest near Brussels held a meeting at which they reaffirmed their 'absolute hostility to German rearmament in any shape or form'.

The 'Stop War' organisation, directed by Baron Allard, put out a leaflet addressed to scientists and industrialists.

The National Committee of the Belgian Union for the Defence of Peace, meeting in Brussels on February 13, 1955, asked all Belgians to demonstrate 'their solidarity with the German people in their bitter struggle' and 'to prevent the ratification of the Paris agreements by the Senate'.

The resolution states that the Belgian Union will join with all organisations and tendencies for peace in ensuring the success of the campaign against the preparations for atomic war.

In a message to the German people, the Belgian Union for the Defence of Peace states:

'The vote in favour of the Paris agreements in the Belgian Lower House does not reflect the will of the majority of the Belgian people . . .

'We cannot allow this vote to be exploited in order to weaken our resistance . . .'

The campaign of petitions to the senators goes on.

A conference was organised in Brussels with the participation of Mr. Edward Dixon, Labour member of Coventry City Council.

Our photo shows a poster of the Belgian Union for the Defence of Peace which says "Rearm them? Give them the H bomb? NO!"

*

The Luxemburg Peace Movement held its national conference on January 30. Resolutions against German rearmament were adopted.

Another resolution demands a policy of disarmament from the Luxemburg Government. 'As an immediate measure', says the resolution, 'the people of Luxemburg demand a considerable decrease in the length of military service . . . a reduction in the stocks of weapons and the use of the money thus liberated for social and cultural purposes.'

Sweden

A leaflet put out by the National Peace Committee against the rearmament of Western Germany bears the title 'Is this to happen again?' and a photo of Hitler in the company of his generals.

The leaflet shows that Sweden must give active support to proposals for Four Power negotiations to ensure European security.

Cameroons

In a resolution, the Cameroons Peace Committee stresses that 'if the Paris Agreements were put into operation, it would mean a new armaments race and a definite danger of another war . . . Africa and the Cameroons would not be spared . . .

'Therefore the people of the Cameroon ask the French Parliament not to finally ratify these agreements.'

Canada

The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of Canada has expressed its solidarity with the German workers' struggle against the remilitarisation of Germany and has called on the Canadian Government to stop supporting rearmament and contribute instead to the peaceful reunification of Germany.

The German People against the Paris Agreements

In the course of the world campaign for a Five Power Peace Pact the Peace Movement in the German Federal Republic organised a referendum in which 9,000,000 Germans demanded the conclusion of a peace treaty and the withdrawal of the occupation troops. The wave of opposition to the Paris Agreements which is traversing Germany at the present time clearly shows that the German people's determination to prevent another war, an atomic war, has greatly increased since then.

Among the young people, in particular, the opposition to recruitment has grown and has found expression in the resolutions of the young trade unionists' congress which firmly rejected remilitarisation.

Similar decisions have been taken by many local and national trade union organisations in the various branches of industry, such as the Bavarian Trade Union Congress and the Third Congress of the Confederation of Trade Unions. When the German Social Democratic Party and the German Communist Party simultaneously decided to conduct a great public campaign against the ratification of the Paris Agreements and for the resumption of four power negotiations, it became clear that the whole German working class was taking its stand on the side of peace.

The demonstration in St. Paul's Church in Frankfurt-on-Main and the signing of the German Manifesto showed that this is not only a working class movement, for representatives of important sections of opinion in the church and intellectual, economic and public spheres took part.

Lastly, the debate on the ratification of the Paris Agreements in the Bundestag showed that, in spite of the vote in favour, the people's opposition is being reflected in the Government coalition and even in the Government itself.

It is impossible to enumerate here the demonstrations and rallies that have taken place and the statements that have been made. In almost every town and in many rural localities there have been big demonstrations attended by a large part of the population. It is particularly interesting to note that a wide range of activities were carried on simultaneously by the trade unions, working class parties, the Peace Movement, youth and women's organisations and public figures.

We shall merely mention a few of these many activities:

● A conference of 500 ministers of the Protestant Church in Hesse sent a letter of protest against the ratification of the Paris Agreements to the members of the Federal Parliament.

● The Bremen provincial parliament rejected the Paris Agreements.

● Erich Ollenhauer, the President of the Social Democratic Party, spoke against the Paris Agreements in Berlin and in various other cities. He addressed 20,000 people in the Westphalia Hall in Dortmund, the biggest hall in the Federal Republic.

● Thousands in many cities have taken part in the collection of signatures to the German Manifesto. In many cases between 70 and 80 per cent of the people have signed; in Hamburg-Nettelnburg the figure was 84.4 per cent.

● In Hanover, Mr. Albertz, Mr. Kubel, Mr. Voigt und Mr. Borowski, all ministers in the government of Lower Saxony, distributed leaflets opposing the Paris Agreements at factory gates.

● The Duisburg port Peace Committee held discussion meetings on board 73 ships and in 10 cafes in the port.

● Mr. Westphal, President of the Social Democratic youth association, the 'Falcons', stated that the struggle against the agreements will go on even though they have been ratified.

● In Herne, Westphalia, young Protestants and trade unionists, the Peace Committee, the Falcons and the War Resisters jointly organised a march with posters and banners to protest against the rearming of the Federal Republic.

● In the course of their propaganda tour in favour of the Paris Agreements, Chancellor Adenauer and Herr Blank were almost prevented from speaking at Frankfurt, Osnabruck and Friburg-in-Brisgau, so hostile were the crowds.

● The president of the Federal Youth Association, to which almost all youth organisations in the Federal Republic are affiliated, stated that the association was ready to have talks with a delegation from the Free German Youth in the German Democratic Republic.

● By February 15, 5,500,000 signatures against the Paris Agreements has been collcted in the German Democratic Republic and more than 760,000 letters hald been sent to the members of the West German parliament.

● In the course of the plenary session of the German Peace Council in Dresden on February 13, tenth anniversary of the destruction of the city by American bombers, the famous poet and fighter for peace, Bertolt Brecht, handed over 176,203 signatures of intellectuals approving a statement against the Paris Agreements, which he had issued in December 1954.

● A joint appeal against rearmament has been issued by 87 former high officers and generals of the German army.

● Professor Hans Iwand, the eminent Protestant theologian of Bonn University, spoke at a great demonstration against the Paris Agreements.

Netherlands

Here is the text of the Appeal to which 160,000 signatures against the Paris Agreements have already been collected in Holland:

'We condemn the Paris Agreements, for they offer no real guarantee against the revival of an aggressive German army.

'We consider that in the interests of European security these agreements must be rejected and East-West negotiations must be resumed for the peaceful settlement of the German question.'

Every day deputations go to the parliament at The Hague to ask the M.P.s not to ratify the agreements.

The 'Church and Peace' movement has sent a letter to the members of both houses of parliament asking them to reject the agreements, and the 'Third Way' movement has adopted and published an appeal demanding that Germany be disarmed and that a conference take place between the Four Great Powers.

On February 13 in Amsterdam, more than 10,000 people took part in a demonstration against the threat of atomic war and for the peaceful settlement of the German question (*see photo*). Thousands of people cheered the demonstrators.

All the speakers called for an active struggle against the N.A.T.O. Council decision on the preparations for atomic war.

In his closing speech, Mr. Luirink, member of the Bureau of the Dutch Peace Council, called on the participants to redouble their efforts in the collections of signatures against the London and Paris Agreements and to prepare for the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki.

The demonstration of February 13 in Amsterdam

Rumania

Great actions against German rearmament are being carried through in Rumania.

In the capital, the towns and the countryside many institutions, factories, schools and cultural clubs are organising lectures and meetings with a total attendance of many thousands.

Women and young people are playing an active part in the campaign against the Paris Agreements. For example, hundreds of women workers and peasants attended an important meeting in the Galati and Bujour districts which were devastated in the Second World War.

At a meeting of intellectuals in Bucharest, a thorough discussion was followed by the adoption of a message to the artists and writers of the countries which have signed the agreements.

The Regional Peace Committee organised a meeting in the town of Tirgu-Mures in the course of which the conductor of the town's State Philharmonic Orchestra stated:

'We have a great love for the creations of the German people, the works of Beethoven and Bach, and it is for this reason that we protest at the revival of the Wehrmacht, which destroyed Germany's age-old culture.'

Ministers of religion of different denominations have protested at the new war threats in press statements and inter-church conferences.

Initiative Committee for National Peace Movement set up in Gold Coast

An initiative committee to set up a national peace movement has just been created in the Gold Coast (West Africa). It includes representatives of youth organisations of Takoradi and Essikadu, the students' association of Sekoudi-Takoradi, the Togo Youth Movement, trade unionists, ministers of religion and intellectuals. Mr. Christian, general secretary of the Gold Coast Oil Workers' trade unions, was elected chairman. In a first document, the Initiative Committee called on the people to protest against the threats of atomic war and to form a national Peace Front.

The committee sent more than 5,000 letters to public figures of all sections of the population. The Prime Minister, members of the government and more than 200 local leaders were invited to join the national peace movement which is now being formed.

Many favourable replies have already been received, from which we take the following extracts:

Mr. N. A. Welbeck, Minister of Works: 'I wish to thank you for the way in which you intend to help establish peace and, further, to urge you on to success ... We are entitled to hope that this conception of bringing peace will spread to all parts of the country ...'

Nana Kwamina Anaisie IV, Omanhene of Dutch Seondi: 'I am very much interested and support you wholeheartedly ...'

Councillor E. A. Addo, Accra Municipal Council: 'I support the movement wholeheartedly ...'

The Rev. W. E. Angmortey, principal, Volta College: 'I support this movement and shall be ready to serve whenever you require my services ...'

Councillor E. A. Anteh, Accra municipal council: 'I shall not hesitate to enrol as a member of this movement, since it aims at world peace ...'

Bishop Ezra Douglas Martinson, of the Anglican Church, Goald Coast: I quite agree with your object ...'

Dr. Y. D. Agyeman-Dickson, principal of the Ashanti-Akim state college: 'This is an opportune time for the progressive elements of our country to join forces with millions of peace-loving peoples of other lands to bring pressure to bear on the major powers about the use of hydrogen bombs. This is the century of action. I therefore beg you and your brethren to work even faster than you had intended to ...'

Soviet Union Prepares for Conference of Asian Countries

Large scale preparations for the Conference of Asian Countries for the Relaxation of International Tension are being carried out in the Soviet Union and many Asian countries.

The Soviet preparatory committee was set up in Moscow. It includes eminent Soviet public figures: Mr. Tikhonov, writer, who is chairman of the committee; Mr. Alexander Korneichuk, writer; Mr. D. Khodjaev, president of the trade union council of the republic of Uzbekistan; Mrs. N. Bazanova, professor in the Kazakhstan University; Mr. Tursun-Zade, writer, Tadjikistan; Mr. B. Jamgyrchinov, rector of the University of the Republic of Kirghizia; Mr. Veli Mukhatov, chairman of the Union of Composers of Turkmenistan; Mr. Nesterov, president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce; Ishan Babakhan Ibn Abdul Medjidkhan, mufti, chairman of the Moslem Religious Administration for Central Asie and Kazakhstan; Mr. E. Zhukov, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union; Mr. A. Sofronov, editor of the review *Ogonyok*.

Mr. Sofronov was designated as the Soviet Preparatory Committee's representative on the Secretariat for convening the Conference.

Letters from Soviet Citizens:

'We Are All for Peace'

Every morning the postman delivers a pile of letters to the Soviet Peace Committee — letters from people of all ages, all professions and all opinions, but all alike in their desire for peace. These letters come from Moscow and the Far East, from Baku and from Murmansk, from the steppes of Kazakhstan and the vineyards of Georgia.

Here are a few extracts:

Mr. Bessonov, an ex-serviceman and now an engineer, writes: 'It is now nine and a half years since the news of the unconditional capitulation of Germany came over the radio. On that day, we believed that we had seen the end of the horrors of war.

'I speak to the ordinary people of France, Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, Italy and America. Together we bore the burden of the Second World War; let us together prevent the creation of a new Wehrmacht.'

Many letters come from mothers. Mrs. A. Rogovik of Kiev, who has a large family, writes:

'I want my children, like all other children in the world, to live in peace, to study and to grow up not for the horrors of war, but to live in peace and happiness.'

Many letters, too, pay tribute to the World Peace Movement.

'We Soviet people', says a letter from Mr. Ivanov of Vyshni Volochek, 'love our foreign brothers who are valiantly defending the great cause of peace.'

'Ordinary Soviet people', Mr. Perlia of Stalinabad points out in his letter, 'follow the activity of the World Council of Peace and give it their full approval.'

All these letters express the profound conviction that ordinary people can prevent war. 'The peoples are an enormous force', writes Mr. Ivanov of the Ukraine. 'There are hundreds of millions of us ordinary people in the world, and we all stand for peace.'

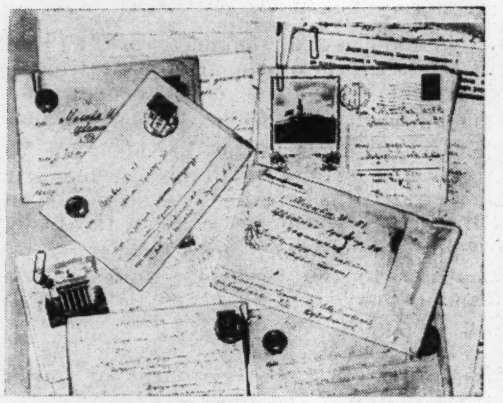
On December 27, 1954, the Moscow journal *Literaturnaya Gazeta* published a letter sent to the Soviet Peace Committee by a Japanese primary school teacher, Mrs. Tidzuko Tomidzava.

This letter, which reflects the thoughts and feelings of the whole Japanese people, met with a big response from the Soviet people.

From every part of the Soviet Union, letters flowed in addressed to Mrs. Tidzuko Tomidzava.

Two Soviet teachers, Alexander and Margarita Kuzovkin, of Kamensk-Uralski, in the district of Sverdlovsk, write:

'Dear colleague and friend, you are very far away, but you are at the same time very near to us. We approve your appeal to all honest people in the world and support your demand for the banning of the atomic and hydrogen bombs.



Letters to Mrs. Tidzuko Tomidzava.

'We know that all Soviet people think the same. More than once already they have spoken up against war and against weapons of mass destruction. But the enemy must constantly be reminded of the strength and unity of the peace-loving peoples.

'We wish you every success in your struggle.'

Mrs. Nadezhda Akilova, a worker in the cotton factory of Orekhovo-Zuevo, writes:

'Tell the women of your country that we Soviet mothers stretch out a hand of friendship to Japanese mothers who are struggling for their children's happiness and the happiness of all progressive mankind.'

The following passage is from a letter from Mrs. O. Semeyonova of Rostov-on-Don:

'The peoples of the world will say a categorical "No" to war. The whole world will take part in the campaign for the banning of weapons of mass destruction.'

Finally, Mr. Sorokin of Ape, in Latvia, says:

'August 6, 1945, the date on which atomic energy was used for mass murder for the first time, will remain engraved in the memory of all ordinary people for ever. They will remember it so that this barbarous act may never be repeated ...

'We are sure that the people will win, that they will not allow an atomic massacre. It is you, it is me, it is your people and my people and millions of people throughout the world, who will obtain this. We believe that the day will come when your pupils will meet mine. They will come together, all of them, in a very beautiful city, the city of Peace. They will remember with gratitude our courageous struggle for the happiness of mankind and for the triumph of peace.'

India: 'Quit Taiwan' Day

The Indian people gave an exceptional welcome to the appeal of the All India Congress for Peace and Asian Solidarity to make February 6, 1955 a national protest day against foreign intervention in the Chinese island of Taiwan. On this 'Quit Taiwan' Day, demonstrations and meetings were held throughout the country.

Madras

The Madras Peace Committee called an important meeting which was held in the Memorial Hall with Dr. V.K. Joh, an eminent Madras barrister, in the chair.

The speakers included Mr. T.M. Krishnaswamy Iyer, president of the Madras Advocates' Association; Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu, member of the Legislative Assembly and member of the Congress Party; and a number of others.

The following extracts are taken from the resolution adopted at the meeting:

'This meeting of the citizens of Madras views with grave concern the recent developments in the Far East, particularly the situation that has developed in regard to Taiwan and other related positions . . .

'In order to ease the situation in the Far East, eliminate the threat of war against China and safeguard peace in Asia and the world, this meeting demands that the U.S. Government must immediately withdraw all its armed forces from Taiwan, the Penghu islands and Taiwan Straits, leaving the People's Republic of China free to solve its own internal problems . . .'

'The presence of foreign forces on Taiwan is a menace to the People's Republic of China and a threat to the peace of all South-East Asia.'

The statement calls on the Indian people to unite, on the basis of the Five Principles, to maintain security and peace in Asia and the world.

Delhi

Similar demonstrations took place in Delhi, where Pandit Sunderlal demanded an end to foreign intervention on the territory of the People's Republic of China. A poster parade was then held in the streets of the capital. Demonstrations were also held in Agra; in Meerut, where a meeting unanimously demanded that the United States Government 'withdraw its armed forces from Taiwan, leaving the Chinese authorities to settle their own internal affairs'; in Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Gwalior, Banaraa, Rewari, etc. Everywhere, the Peace Movement was the organiser and inspirer of 'Quit Taiwan' Day.

As part of the activities being carried out in India in response to the appeal of the All India Congress, we may mention an important statement by the All India Trade Union Congress which says:

National Opposition to Proposed 'Via Cuba' Canal

An energetic campaign involving the whole nation is growing in opposition to the plan to construct the 'Via Cuba' Canal, which was decided on by a decree last year. According to this decree, the strip of land bordering on the canal would be, for ninety-nine years, the property of a company which would exercise full authority over it. A body of police would be set up to protect the canal and would be responsible only to the company, and the workers in the canal zone would be subjected to military rule.

The most authoritative voices have spoken out against this project, including Mr. Jorge Mañach, former senator and government minister, who has written a number of articles in the review *Bohemia;* Mr. José Pardo Llada, former M.P. and director of one of the most important radio publications in the country; the Federation of University Students; the Free Latin American Association; Dr. Andres Valdespino, a Catholic leader; the leaderships of the Port Workers' Union and the Sugar Workers' Union; and the Executive Committees of the People's Party and the Socialist Revolutionary Party. Public meetings held in Havana and Oriente universities, with eminent public figures present, condemned the project.

The National Peace Committee is playing an active part in this national opposition. We take the following passage from one of the statements it has issued and which was widely distributed in the form of a leaflet:

'The carrying through of the "Via Cuba" canal project would create in our country a situation similar to that from which the people of Panama are suffering. A "canal zone" would be created and would be a source of discrimination, of attacks on our national sovereignty and of corruption . . .

'At bottom, the "Via Cuba" canal is to be built for strategic ends. The decree which decided its construction admits as much in two places . . .

'With the construction of the canal, our country would automatically be dragged into any armed conflict decided upon by the state to which the company belonged.'

*

Syrian Public Figures Oppose Nuclear Weapons and Military Pacts

A number of Syrian political figures have just made some interesting statements from which we take the following extracts:

Mr. Ali Buzu, M.P., former Government minister and one of the leaders of the People's Party, of which the President of the Republic is a member, stated:

'Syria has no interest in war, the more so as any future war would be an atomic war . . .' Mr. Buzu added that the Syrian Government should do its utmost to prevent war and the use of weapons of mass destruction. He criticised military alliances as being serious blows at the sovereignty and security of nations and stressed that the Syrian people would oppose any military pact.

Mr. Salah Bitar, M.P., one of the leaders of the Arab Socialist Party, emphasised the danger of military pacts:

'We must ask our Government to denounce the Turkey-Iraq alliance and to oppose any other military pact.'

Referring to the N.A.T.O. decision, Mr. Abdel Karim Zhur, M.P., one of the leaders of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, stressed:

'We are opposed to the use of conventional weapons, and are therefore even more opposed to weapons of mass destruction. We are against any act which endangers civilisation and the security of the peoples. Industry and science must help mankind to build a happy life.'

Mr. Hussein Moreiwed and Mr. Abdelatif Yunes, both independent M.P.s, made similar statements.

Uruguay: Expand Foreign Trade says public opinion

There is a growing tendency in a number of sectors of the Uruguayan economy in favour of opening up trade with countries with which Uruguay has hitherto had no normal trading relations.

An important meeting was held recently in the Stella de Italia Theatre on the initiative of the Woolworkers' Federation. The Executive Committee of the Federal League for Rural Action, industrialists and bankers, organisations from Montevideo and from the interior of the country, the leather workers' union and the trade union branch of the S.U.M.M.A. concern, were represented at the meeting. The President of the Chamber of Commerce sent a message of support to the organisers.

In a press statement, Mr. Petit de la Villeon, representative of the Materprin import business, stated: 'Quite obviously, it is not only an advantage for Uruguay to trade with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe; it is also, today, an imperative necessity . . .' This being so, he added, Uruguay should have a diplomatic representative in Moscow.

Then Dr. Olaso, president and director of the national refrigerating company, stated that he supports trade without discrimination and that the organisation of which he is president is prepared to sell meat to any country.

The 1955 Anniversaries

Andersen in Japan

The cultural anniversaries proposed by the World Council of Peace will be commemorated at great demonstrations in Japan. The events in memory of Hans Christian Andersen which are to take place in the near future will be particularly important. On the initiative of Mr. Tokutaro Kitamura, former Minister of Finance, a committee has been set up. It is composed of university professors, writers, teachers and representatives of the Peace Movement and various libraries and other organisations. This committee has already received many important declarations of support and is preparing for an Andersen festival and a number of other events.

The Six Anniversaries in China

In the People's Republic of China, the commemoration of the anniversaries will be on a grand scale. From May to July there will be events in honour of Montesquieu, Andersen, Mickiewicz and Schiller. Then, drom July to October, the anniversaries of the first publication of *Don Quixote* and *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman will be celebrated. In November comes the celebration of the fifteen hundredth anniversary of the famous frescoes of the Ajanta caves in India. French, Danish, Polish, German, Spanish, Indian and American intellectuals will be invited to these ceremonies. Moreover, the review *I Wen* (World Literature) publishes in its February number a selection from the *Persian Letters* of Montesquieu, together with studies on the famous French sociologist.

Brazil

The Brazilian Peace Council has decided to approach the Brazilian Writers' Association to draw up a joint programme for the celebration of the anniversaries recommended by the World Council. It has further decided to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Brazilian writer, Artur Azevedo.

Soviet Union

In the Soviet Union, the Leningrad Artistic Film Studio is preparing a film on *Don Quixote* and another studio is working on cartoons based on tales by Andersen: *The Queen of the Snows, The Emperor's New Coat, The Wild Swans,* etc. A number of Republic, regional and district peace committees in the Soviet Union have drawn up plans for the celebration of the anniversaries. These include a series of conferences, exhibitions and the publication of books and pamphlets.

Schiller in Hungary

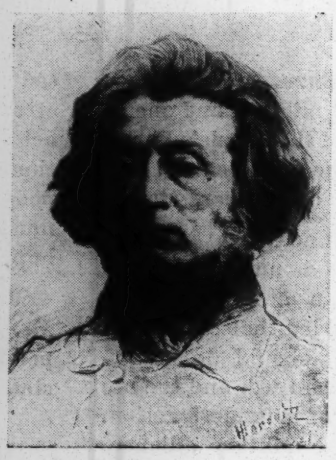
In Hungary, there will be two events in honour of Schiller. The first of these will be organised by the Academy of Sciences and the Eotvos Lorand University, and the second by the Peace Council and the Writers' Association. The latter will include the reading of extracts from Schiller's works, some of them translated into Hungarian for the first time. There will also be a performance of musical compositions of Schiller's time, and a German cultural figure will be invited to take part.

The National Theatre will present *Intrique and Love*, then *Don Carlos* by the great German playwright. The second of these plays will be presented at the Opera. The People's Army Theatre is planning to put *Wilhelm Tell* on its repertoire. In those parts of the country where the people speak German, the plays will be given in the original language. Lastly, there will be a two-volume edition of a selection of Schiller's prose, poetry and plays.

Albania

In Albania, the anniversary of Aristophanes in 1954 was commemorated by the translation and publication of plays by the great Greek dramatist, *Lysistrata* in particular. Memorial meetings were held in a vumber of towns. At Tirana, the writer Mr. Kole Jakova, gave a lecture on the life and work of Aristophanes to a big audience.

Mickiewicz Year in Poland



The hundredth anniversary of the great Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz will be celebrated on a great scale in his own country. The programme of activity was drawn up by the Mickiewicz Year Celebrations Committee at a meeting in Warsaw on February 21; the committee is composed of eminent students of Mickiewicz and his period, scientists, writers, artists and others. It stressed the need to intensify research on his works and to make the poet and his time as widely known as possible. The research work that will be done this year will deal with the work of Mickiewicz and romantic art and ideas in general. The results will be made public at a special session of the Polish Academy of Sciences which will be attended by scientists from all over Europe. The congresses of Polish students of language and literature and the annual congresses of scientific associations will be devoted to Mickiewicz and the main problems of his time.

This centenary year will see the publication of 250 works by Polish and foreign writers of the romatic period. An important special centenary edition of Mickiewicz will appear in the autumn.

Polish theatres will put on many plays by Polish and foreign dramatists of the romantic period, particularly Slowacki, Schiller and Hugo. The Polish National Theatre in Warsaw will put on *The Forefathers* (Dziade) by Mickiewicz.

Exhibitions, memorial meetings and assemblies, artistic events and lectures will be held throughout the country.

November 26, the day of the poet's death, will be the culminating point of Mickiewicz Year. On that day, in addition to the premiere of *The Forefathers* and the plenary session of the Polish Writer's Union, the Mickiewicz monument, which was destroyed during the war and has been rebuilt on its old site, will be inaugurated in the Market Square in Krakow. On the same day, the first stone of a new monument to the great poet will be laid in Freedom Square in Poznan. The plan of this monument will be chosen from the entries in a great competition which will open shortly. A Mickiewicz Museum, which is now being founded in Warsaw, will in the future be the main centre for research on the poet.

The Mickiewicz Year Celebrations Committee, whose chairman is Mr. Alexander Zawadski, President of the Council of State, has designated a Standing Committee to carry through the execution of this programme. Its members are: Mr. Wlodimierz Sokorski, Minister for Culture and Art (Chairman); Professor Stefan Zolkiewski; Professor Kazimierz Wika; Mr. Mieczyslaw Jastrun, President of the Committee for Education; Mrs. Zifia Dembinska, Vice-Minister for Education and President of the Committee for Literature and Art; Mr. Jan Wilcek, Vice-Minister for Culture and Art, and others.

Exhibitions and Messages of Friendship

In Jakarta, the Chinese Arts and Crafts Exhibition was attended by over 80,000 visitors in the course of its three week run. These included President Soekarno and Vice-President Mohammed Hata. The exhibition was then taken on a three week tour of the main towns of Indonesia.

A similar exhibition, including over 1,400 articles of porcelain, pottery, metalware, sculpture, lacquerware and embroidery, was warmly welcomed in India, where it was on show in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

In Michigan, in the United States, an exhibition of the arts and crafts of the people of China and the other countries of South-East Asia, has been held.

In Amsterdam, the sculptor, Mr. J. Havermans and the musician, Mr. Haakon Stotijn inaugurated an exhibition entitled 'The Theatre in the Republic of Rumania'. Its beginnings and development are shown in a series of photos and engravings.

The great Italian painter, Renato Guttuso, has exhibited his paintings and engravings in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, with great success.

26th Congress of Soviet Surgeons

The 26th Congress of Soviet Surgeons, which was held in Moscow at the end of January, gave striking evidence of the conquests of modern medical science, particularly in the treatment of infections of the thorax.

The Congress was attended by 2,123 delegates and by nearly 500 foreign guests, including doctors and surgeons from 19 countries: Argentine, Belgium, China, France, the German Democratic Republic, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy and others.

The atmosphere was very cordial and relations were established to ensure the continued progress of science and international co-operation.

The Soviet surgeons and their guests together examined the major problems of modern surgery, made a synthesis of the experience gained, approved the new methods of operating for certain cases and outlined the methods to be followed for the continuous perfecting of surgery. For the first time a great deal of light was thrown on the problem of heart surgery.

Professor Dejardin of Belgium, General Secretary of the International Surgical Society, congratulated his Soviet colleagues on their remarkable achievements on behalf of the surgeons of 56 countries. Professor Valdoni of Italy described the reports made by the Soviet specialists as being 'very full and interesting'.

Soviet doctors are not limiting themselves to curative medecine, but are paying more and more attention to ways of preventing illness.

The work of the 26th Congress of Soviet Surgeons made a big contribution to the development of medical science and to the protection of health.

In his closing speech, Mr. N. Bakulev, President of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, stated:

'Friendly co-operation is growing and there are more contacts between Soviet medical specialists and scientists from other countries. This is useful and rich in results. The foreign progressive scientists who are our guests and friends have spoken words of encouragement and friendship and have, together with us, spoken out for life and against death and the dark forces who want to hurl the peoples into the abyss of another war.'

*

The 42nd session of the Indian Science Congress was recently held in Baroda, Bombay State. It was attended by more than 4,000 delegates from all parts of India, by representatives of the scientists of China, Great Britain, the U.S.S.R., the United States, Japan, Switzerland and other countries and by delegates from international organisations.

Composer Claudio Santoro says:

'The World Assembly will give artists new opportunities'

The Brazilian composer and conductor Claudio Santoro has just completed a tour of Europe which took him to Czechoslovakia and Poland. He is the author of the 'Song of Love and Peace' which won him an International Peace Prize in 1953 and has won many national and international prizes. On his way through Vienna he was kind enough to give the following statement for the Bulletin:

'For this tour I included Brazilian music on my concert repertoire: Villa Lobos, Camargo, Garnieri and others, and brought with me a collection of Brazilian musical instruments, together with documents and material on popular Brazilian art. I believe that such exchanges are an excellent way of cultivating friendship and understanding between the peoples.

'That is one of the reasons why I attach the greatest importance to the World Assembly for Peace which the World Council of Peace is calling in Helsinki this year. I am sure that this Assembly will make a major contribution both to the struggle for peace and to the development of cultural exchanges.

'But exchanges can only grow freely if art and national culture are defended. As far as Latin America is concerned, this preoccupation was voiced at the Continental Cultural Congress held in Santiago de Chile and the Congress of Brazilian Intellectuals. On this point, I should like to mention the example of the musicians of Sao Paulo who have just founded an association for the defence of Brazilian music.

'From this point of view, too, many artists are interested in the World Assembly which will give them new opportunities for popularising and defending their national culture. They know that there can be no development in cultural activities and exchanges unless there is peace between the peoples.'

Young People Prepare for Fifth Festival of Youth and Students

The preparations for the Fifth World Festival of Youth and students are eliciting great enthusiasm.

The Festival programme will be very rich and varied and will include fetes, theatrical performances, concerts, balls, a carnival, visits and excursions, not to speak of sports competitions, friendly meetings between delegations and between young people who follow the same profession. Moreover, the participants will be able to attend the Second Friendly International Sports Meeting which will be held in Warsaw at the same time. The Fifth Festival will be greater than any previous one and will be a contribution of the whole of the world's young people to the struggle for peace and friendship.

In every country, the young people are getting ready.

● In Great Britain, 45 youth organisations of many kinds — cultural, sports, student and trade union organisations and young people from the colonial countries — were represented at a meeting of the British Youth Festival Committee. The Reverend Kenyon Wright stated that perhaps there were young people who thought that the rearmament of West Germany was necessary, but he hoped they would come to Warsaw and see what young Germans, Poles and Czechs thought about it. There was no doubt that wherever young people met they understood each other.

● There were also 45 organisations represented at the meeting called by the Danish National Committee. These included the university section of the 'No More War' organisation; student, sports and folklore societies; such persons as the secretary of the Jutland Small Farmers' Association; and journalists and others. In Denmark, the preparations will take the form of cultural evenings, sports competitions and a national cultural programme based on the works of Andersen.

● The Latin American Youth Festival was held in Sao Paulo from February 6 to 13. The Sponsoring Committee was composed of eminent figures in the spheres of culture, science and politics from all over Latin America.

● In Canada, there will be a Youtb Festival with a cultural and sports programme during the month of July.

● In Czechoslovakia, the great Prague Youth Festival will be held with the motto: 'Forward to the Fifth World Youth Festival!'

● The Egyptian Amateur Athletic Federation has decided to send a full team to the Second Friendly International Sports Meeting.

● Active preparations for the Fifth World Youth Festival are going on in the German Federal Republic, India, Japan and Italy.

Questions and Answers

We give below a few explanations which can used in replies to objections made to the Vienna Appeal; this feature will be continued in future numbers of the Bulletin. It would be useful if all our friends, committees and organisations taking part in the collection of signatures would inform us of the arguments met with and the replies given to them.

The Appeal launched by the World Council opens with a very serious statement: 'Today, certain governments are preparing to let loose atomic war.'

1 What led the World Council of Peace to make this statement?

In formulating the first sentence of the Appeal to the peoples in this way, the Bureau was above all referring to the decisions of the N.A.T.O. Council at its last session in Paris on December 17 and 18, 1954.

These decisions, signed by the ministers of the member countries of N.A.T.O. — that is, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Portugal, and Turkey — approve the report presented by the N.A.T.O. Military Committee and decide to adopt atomic weapons and proceed with the strategical, tactical and logistic reorganisation of the N.A.T.O. army made necessary by the use of atomic weapons.

2 Is the N.A.T.O. decision really so serious as to demand immediate action by the peoples?

It is extremely serious, because the intention is to regularise atomic weapons and to make the people accept their use as inevitable, and because this decision is being immediately translated into concrete preparations for atomic war.

Once the N.A.T.O. army has been adapted to meet the needs created by the adoption of these weapons, any war would be an atomic war.

The full gravity of this decision is seen when we consider that

a) It was taken at a time when the international situation revealed signs, feeble perhaps, but unmistakable, of a relaxation of tension. The most important of these signs, which had given the peoples renewed hope, were: the Berlin Conference, the ending of the war in Indo-China, the unanimous agreement on a common basis for the discussion of the grave problems of disarmament, the banning of atomic weapons and the peaceful use of atomic energy.

b) It was taken at the same time as frantic efforts were being made to force on the peoples of Europe the rearming of West Germany whose army would be equipped with atomic weapons; and just as a dangerous situation was on the point of being created in the Formosa Straits in the Far East, through the intervention of foreign naval and air forces in the internal affairs of China.

The gravity of the N.A.T.O. decision has been confirmed by the events that have followed: the British Government's decision to proceed with the manufacture of thermonuclear weapons, and France's determination to take part in the atomic arms race, to mention only two.

3 But in denouncing the fact that certain governments are preparing to unleash an atomic war, is not in the World Council of Peace taking up a partisan position vis-a-vis these governments?

The World Council of Peace is not opposing these governments, but rather the decisions taken by responsible ministers of these governments at the N.A.T.O. Council meeting.

These decisions, as has just been shown, represent an extremely serious danger to the peace of the world, to the lives of millions of men and women and even to future generations. It is the World Council's duty to denounce them and to call on the peoples to take action to prevent them from being implemented.

It has this right and duty because its role is to act to defend peace, to support any act aimed at strengthening the cause of peace and openly to oppose and denounce any act which represents a war danger; and this independently of any considerations as to which government or official figure is responsible for these acts.

TWO NEW PAMPHLETS

Mankind Must Choose

by Dr. E. H. S. Burhop

With the title 'Mankind Must Choose', the eminent physicist, Dr. E.H.S. Burhop, has just written a pamphlet on 'What the atomic war plans mean to you'. Starting off with a telling exposure of the dangerous decisions of the N.A.T.O. Council last December, Dr. Burhop exposes the dishonesty of some of the main arguments put forward by those who defend the use of atomic weapons. He shows how close the powers have come to a possible basis of agreement for disarmament, and how the possibilites of agreement is wrecked by the N.A.T.O. decisions; he shows clearly what the peoples have to expect if these weapons are used in war, and he shows how they have it in their power to change these decisions and to ensure that atomic war is not allowed to start.

Dr. Burhop is a scientist of great knowledge and experience. In this pamphlet he has put that knowledge and experience at the service of ordinary people, writing in the simplest terms, placing important political and scientific truths at the disposal of every ordinary person.

The central idea of the pamphlet is contained in the following passage:

'With his growing mastery of the unimagined forces contained in the tiny world of the atom, man faces a choice: the development of unlimited, perhaps undreamed of resources for the health, happiness and security of every human being, or a race to mass destruction.'

The pamphlet will help many men to see this choice clearly and to enter into the struggle. It is issued by the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace and is now available.

An Immediate Threat to Europe

by Mrs. Isabelle Blume-Gregoire

Secretary of the World Council of Peace

'An Immediate Threat to Europe' is a pamphlet by Mrs. Isabelle Blume-Gregoire, Secretary of the World Council of Peace, which explains, in a lively style, the dangers that would result for Europe and the world from the ratification of the London and Paris Agreements.

Mrs. Blume analyses the agreements and shows that they set the seal on the division of Germany by recognising the Bonn Government as the only one competent to speak for the whole of Germany and that they divide Europe into two military blocs.

The Paris Agreements hide the truth and deceive the peoples.

They speak of sovereignty, but, as Mrs. Blume points out, this sovereignty does not exist, either for the German people or the other peoples of Europe. In fact, 'the armies and whole economy of these countries . . . are placed under a supranational organisation which is itself under American command'.

Like E.D.C., the Paris Agreements envisage the setting up of 12 German divisions and claim that this new Wehrmacht will be purely defensive. But, Mrs. Blume-Gregoire points out, 'even before they (the agreements) are ratified, the N.A.T.O. General Staff has decided to transform the European army, including the German army, into an army whose strategy will be based on atomic weapons'.

The agreements speak of the control over armaments exercised by the Council of the West European Union, but Mrs. Blume gives concrete examples showing that this control is an illusion. Already after the First World War, she says, every trick was used to rebuild a powerfully organised German army equipped with modern weapons.

Industry and high finance gave effective help in reviving German military might.

The Paris Agreements favour 'the armaments manufacturers to the detriment of light industry . . . Never have their rights been written so clearly into a treaty'.

And, Mrs. Blume adds, 'when the armaments manufacturers win the day, the possibilities of war are not far away, and it is time that the peoples rose up against them'.

Mrs. Blume concludes by calling on the peace-loving peoples to take action. 'Let them remember the appeal made by the World Council of Peace at Stockholm on November 23, 1954:

'It is not within the power of any government, of any Parliament, to settle the fate of a people against their will.

'The people will not let the irreparable happen.'

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[World Peace Council]

SECRETARIAT
OF THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

ESTATE-HAUS
WIEN IV
MÖLLWALD-PLATZ 5
AUSTRIA

O/bw

Vienna, March 17, 1955

De. W.E.B. Du Bois.

27-16-6

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your letter of January 21 on General MacArthur's speech in Los Angeles. I hope you will forgive me for taking so long to reply.

I have studied the speech with great attention and I would like to give you some of the conclusions I have reached.

The main idea developed by MacArthur is that the 'abolition of war' is the sole immediate aim that the peoples must set themselves.

Now we remember that the attitude of General MacArthur during the Korean war led the Second World Peace Congress in Warsaw to demand, in its address to the United Nations, that 'a competent International Commission be appointed to examine the crimes committed during the war in Korea, and in particular the question of the responsibility of General MacArthur'.

That the same man should now emit the above opinion is something positive, in that it reflects the strength of the peoples' will to peace, especially the American people.

But we must note that General MacArthur's proposal is one of the arguments used against us in the world campaign for the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons and a ban on their manufacture.

As you know, this new signature campaign is to meet the grave threat contained in the decisions of the last ministerial session of the N.A.T.O. Council, during which responsible representatives of the governments which are members of N.A.T.O. decided to base the whole 'Atlantic' military system on the use of atomic weapons.

This official decision means that any war in any part of the world would inevitably be transformed into an atomic world war. Mankind is therefore confronted with the immediate and concrete threat of a war of extermination.

In these circumstances, certain people think that it is not the atomic bomb that must be abolished, but war itself. And we note that this theory is being spread at the very moment when the threat of atomic war is becoming concrete.

We, for our part, think that it is possible to prevent atomic war and even war in any form. It is for this reason that, a few years ago, the World Peace Movement conducted a great campaign for a Five Power Peace Pact which, if it had been signed, would have been the best guarantee against the unleashing of another world war.

.../...

Yet it is precisely those who at that time opposed the campaign for a Peace Pact who are today speaking of 'banning war', and they are doing so at a time when we are calling on the peoples to demand the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons and the stopping of their manufacture.

Moreover, experience shows that war dangers are connected with a policy of domination, and it must unfortunately be recognised that such intentions are being proclaimed today. Both the Locarno Agreements and Hitler's solemn statements that he would not resort to force did not prevent the Second World War from breaking out. On the other hand, no government dared to incur universal reprobation by violating the Geneva Convention on the banning of chemical weapons.

At the present time the main immediate danger is that of atomic war. In these circumstances, the idea developed by General MacArthur is likely to confuse public opinion, in our view, and to hinder the great and growing movement for the abolition of atomic weapons.

We therefore do not think it necessary to publish the Los Angeles speech, especially since it has already been officially publicised on a scale that we could not hope to achieve.

I am sure that you will share our views and that, in spite of the temporary difficulties and the obstacles raised by the protagonists of atomic war, the American people will make their contribution to the current campaign, thereby justifying the confidence placed in them by the forces of peace throughout the world.

Hoping to hear from you,

I am,

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jean LAFFITTE

General Secretary of the World Council of Peace

27-6-7

[World Peace Council]

March 25, 1955

M. Jean Laffitte
World Council of Peace
Estate-Haus
Wien IV
Mollwald-Platz 5
Austria

My dear M. Laffitte:

I have received your letter of March 17 with great interest. Nothing that you can say concerning Douglass McArthur and his past record would be too strong to secure my assent. I also agree with you that any attempt to stop our push to abolish atomic war now and forever would be a grave mistake, and that we must not be turned from this great object by the growing number of statements against all war.

Nevertheless and for this very reason, when one of the greatest war-mongers of our time has seen fit, no matter for what reason, to make so strong and devastating statement against war as Douglass McArthur made, it renders it our duty to see that as many people as possible know that this statement was made. It is nothing which should lead us to abate our fight against atomic war or pause in any way, but it does add tremendously to our arsenal of weapons.

Here is a tremendous statement saying clearly that modern war is useless. It is so true a statement that the war mongers in the United States are trying to suppress it. The New York Times stopped the printing of it in its first edition. There has not been a single editorial on this speech in any leading United States paper. This is of tremendous significance and it would be a grave mistake if we joined with the war mongers to suppress one of the greatest statements against war made in our time. I think you should consider this gravely.

You say that it "has already been officially publicised on a scale that we could not hope to achieve." I am surprised to hear this. Where was it publicised and when? In the United States it has not been publicised. It has been suppressed. I hope it has been publicised in Europe and Asia, but I really should like to know when and where.

This leads me to emphasise again the fact that there is a Peace Movement in the United States, that it is strong and that it will grow. I have felt, however, that the World Council of Peace does not quite understand our situation or give us credit. You seem to depend for information entirely on the Peace Crusade. This was once an excellent organisation, but today so far as I can find it is completely dead, and I learn of its activities from your publication. I can not find its office or telephone on my own street. It seems to me that you should not tie yourselves up entirely with an organisation that does not function, but try to have and maintain close connection with all efforts in the United States looking toward Peace.

97-16-1

March 25, 1955

You should realise that the effort to establish universal military training is not succeeding and in all probability will not succeed; that the opposition to war taxation is growing and will grow; that the work of organisations like the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, the New World Review, and the American Labor Party, while having difficulties are still active and influential.

On the other hand it does not seem to be quite understood in progressive circles in Europe that we are not able to obtain passports or visas to attend the peace congresses. I have tried to attend every peace congress which was held since the one at Prague in 1950. I have been unable to obtain the right to do so. I should be only too glad to be present at the projected meeting at Helsinki and to express for the people of the United States the desire for peace which is here so widespread. But there is no doubt but what I will not be allowed to make this trip. What is true in my case is true in the case of Paul Robeson and in the case of hundreds of other persons who would be glad to go. I want you to understand this and to make it clear to the people at the congress, to let them know that we are silent and absent not from inertia and lack of knowledge but because of physical and legal force. Against this compulsion we are making every effort and some day we will be victorious.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

admission card

32-2-6

CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE FOR WORLD PEACE

[1955]

Plenary Session

Sunday, March 27th, 1:30 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Waldorf-Astoria

auspices of:
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES & PROFESSIONS

133

admission card

32-2-7

CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE FOR WORLD PEACE

[1955]

Keynote Session

Carnegie Hall
Saturday, March 26th, 10:00 a.m.

auspices of:
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES & PROFESSIONS

133

Preparing the World Assembly for Peace

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BULLETIN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

No. 1 *April 1, 1955*

REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ORGANISATIONS AND TENDENCIES FOR PEACE TO MEET IN HELSINKI, MAY 22–29

APPEAL FOR THE CALLING OF A WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE

In a world in which there are still great chances of Peace, new dangers appear which may destroy them all.

Only a powerful movement of the peoples can prevent the division of the world into opposing blocs, prevent the rebirth of the armies that have been the source of so much misery and mourning, and free mankind from the crushing cost of arms budgets. Only such a powerful movement can ensure the co-operation of all nations for their welfare, their independence and the security of all.

The World Council of Peace calls to all those whose activities make for Peace, to every man and woman who longs to live free from fear, mistrust, and hate for other peoples. It calls on them to get together before it is too late.

It resolves that a great World Assembly shall be held, including representatives of all the forces and tendencies that make for Peace, to meet ~~in the second half of May 1955~~ May 22–29, 1955

Stockholm, November 23, 1954

FOR A WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE

The open threat of an atomic war from now on hangs over every country, every home, every man, woman and child.

Instead of atomic energy being made to serve mankind, terrible weapons are being piled up. Instead of disarmament, fresh military blocs are being put together. Instead of negotiation and agreement, there are threats and hate-propaganda.

But threats and force are the road to war, not to peace.

The rearmament of Germany, the Taiwan (Formosa) situation, interference with the independence of peoples, are multiplying discord and anxiety. If mankind should go further along this path, there will be no safety anywhere.

Mankind will not allow this to go on. Its conscience is revolted by the idea of atomic slaughter.

The abolition of nuclear weapons, general disarmament, the security of all, respect for the sovereignty and rights of every nation, these must be pursued by the peoples with the energy needed where life itself is at stake.

It is in this spirit and with these aims that the World Council of Peace invites supporters of peace from every country to come together in Helsinki on May 22, 1955 in a World Assembly, there to discuss freely questions of the action urgent to preserve peace.

Vienna, March 13, 1955

How the World Assembl

Millions of Men and Women will be Represented at Helsinki

In every country, the preparations for the World Assembly are giving rise to various activities with the aim of associating the greatest possible number of men and women with the Assembly.

In particular, many National Assemblies are taking place. They are called by the National Peace Committees, with the participation of well-known people and representatives of organisations and groupings which do not belong to the Peace Movement. They follow similar assemblies on a regional and provincial level, themselves preceded by local assemblies.

Another form of action consists in sending the World Council's proposals directly to all organisations and personalities working for peace, who are kept regularly informed of all points relating to the preparation and aims of the World Assembly. They are invited to take part in it or to send representatives. This method is being used in countries like Australia, Sweden, Canada and Great Britain, where 30,000 national and local organisations have been invited to join in the preparations for the World Assembly.

There is also the method of joint organisation by the Peace Movement and other groupings of the preparatory work for the Helsinki Assembly. To do this, preparatory committees are set up, as in Costa Rica and the Union of South Africa.

In every country, the preparations for the Assembly are being carried out in close relation to the development of the campaign against atomic war and all the national actions which bring in the most organisations and tendencies for peace.

All these preparatory activities give rise to exchanges of views and further contacts. They have the aim of ensuring that all organisations and tendencies for peace are really represented at Helsinki.

Proposals for the Agenda

On the basis of the suggestions that had come from various countries and the exchanges of views that had been held, the Bureau of the World Council of Peace proposed the following agenda for the World Assembly:

1) Atomic weapons and disarmament.
2) Military blocs. General security. Co-operation between the nations.
3) The independence of the nations and the maintenance of peace.

It is, of course, the World Assembly itself which will establish the final agenda.

61 COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THIER PARTICIPATION

The following countries have announced that they are sending delegations to the World Assembly in Helsinki:

Albania	German Democratic Republic	Mexico
Algeria	German Federal Republic	Middle Congo
Argentine	Gold Coast	Mongolia
Australia	Great Britain	New Zealand
Austria	Holland	Norway
Belgium	Guatemala	Paraguay
Brazil	Hungary	Poland
Bulgaria	Iceland	Portugal
Burma	India	Rumania
Cameroons	Indonesia	Senegal
Canada	Irak	Spain
Ceylon	Iran	Sweden
Chile	Israel	Switzerland
China	Italy	Syria
Colombia	Japan	Tunisia
Costa Rica	Jordan	Union of South Africa
Cuba	Korea	United States
Cyprus	Lebanon	Uruguay
Czechoslovakia	Luxemburg	U.S.S.R.
Eire		Viet Nam
Finland		
France		

Certain of these countries have already decided on the number of delegates they will send: Iceland and Jordan will send 11 delegates each, Lebanon 20, Syria 25, Belgium 30, Poland 35, Canada 50, Japan 60, Great Britain, India and Sweden 100 each. Five countries of Latin America will send a total of more than 110 delegates, France announces 150 and Finland 200.

In addition to the delegates from the different countries there will be representatives of organisations and personalities who will come to Helsinki as guests or observers. We may therefore anticipate a total of more than 2,000 participants in the World Assembly for Peace.

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What the Peoples Are Doing to Finance the World Assembly

All the expenses of the World Assembly must be met by the participants. Each delegation will have to pay its own travelling expenses, its board and lodging and a contribution to the general expenses based on the size of the delegation.

At the present time, therefore, a great effort is being made to collect money in every country. This is being done in different ways: subscription lists are being put out in connection with the current campaign against the preparations for atomic war; collections are being taken at preparatory meetings in the workplaces and localities; publications, badges and so on are being sold at regional and provincial demonstrations and assemblies; fêtes and bazars are being organised to raise money; supporters' cards are being sold, etc.

This last method is being used in countries like Belgium where coupons representing different distances have been put out, so that every subscriber, in proportion to his means, pays for part of a delegate's journey.

In France, a folding card is being sold containing the World Council's Appeal against the preparations for atomic war and the aims of the Peace Movement. By buying it people give their support to the World Assembly.

In every case the result is that millions of people give both financial support and their approval to the Helsinki Assembly.

The decision to hold a World As
by the World Council of Peace at i
November 18—23, 1954.

More than 200 personalities and
tions, present at the session as guest
of the World Council of Peace in is
Assembly.

The proposal met with a deep re

The favourable welcome it has e
exchanges of view to which it has gi
at its last meeting in Vienna, March
peoples of the aims of the World A

This poster by t
artist Hans Eni w
be on every wal in t

Timetable of Nation

In preparation for the World Assembly
have been held in a number of countries
the coming weeks, as follows:

	Ma
18th, 19th & 20th	Burm
25th	Colombia
29th, 30th & 31st	Mexic
	Ap
2nd & 3rd	France
3rd	Poland
12th	Iceland
17th	Czechoslova
17th	German Fe
23rd & 24th	German De
24th & 25th	Bulgaria, C
	Ma
7th, 8th & 9th	Japa
10th	Sovie Uni
10th, 11th & 12th	Italy
15th	Belgium, S

Reports on the proceedings and decisio
given in this supplement as the informat

...ly is Being Prepared ...

...World Assembly for Peace was taken
...eace at its last session in Stockholm,

...ties and representatives of organisa-
... as guests, joined with the members
...eace in issuing the appeal calling the

... deep response in every country.
... it has everywhere received and the
... it has given rise enabled the Bureau,
...a, March 11—13, 1955, to inform the
... World Assembly.

...ster by the great
...ns Eni will soon
...y war in the world.

...National Assemblies

... Assembly for Peace, national assemblies
... countries and others are announced for

March

...Burma
...Colombia
...Mexico

April

...France
...Poland
...Iceland
...Czechoslovakia
...German Federal Republic
...German Democratic Republic
...Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cuba, Tunisia

May

...Japan
...Soviet Union
...Italy
...Belgium, Spain

...and decisions of these assemblies will be
...e information comes in.

PUBLIC FIGURES STATE...

'The Bureau meeting of the World Council of Peace held in January in Vienna decided to launch a world signature campaign against the preparation of atomic war. This campaign is now developing in many countries of the world. The World Assembly in Helsinki will be held in the middle of this mobilisation of world public opinion against an atomic war.

'Men and women of Japan! We Japanese people, who were the first to rise up against the A and H bombs, should actively participate in the World Assembly to demand the prohibition of the manufacture and stockpiling of atomic weapons and experiments with them and to achieve the aim of peaceful co-existence.'

Extract from an appeal signed by Japanese public figures including the following:

Mr. Tetsu Katayama, former Prime Minister, member of the Right Wing Socialist Party;

Mr. Jiichiro Matsumoto, Senator, former Vice-president of the Senate, member of the Left Wing Socialist Party;

Mr. Minoru Takano, General Secretary of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (S.O.H.Y.O.).

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'I consider that the decision of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace to call a World Assembly for Peace in May is of great human and social interest.

'Never was it more indispensable than now that the conscience of the peoples should accuse those who want to let loose atomic war. Only the firm determination of the peoples will put an end to the war threat.

'In Chile at the present time, the righteous anger and protest of all patriots are aroused by the intention to carry out atomic tests on our territory in the Antarctic. Thousands and thousands of men and women clearly understand what this can mean for us. It is not only a threat to our independence and sovereignty; our very lives and happiness are in danger.

'I am sure that the Appeal of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace will meet with warm support in all circles, whatever their outlook or religious beliefs. Every day that passes sees the struggle for peace gaining more adherents.

'The Helsinki Assembly must reaffirm our faith that the peoples will defeat war."

Mr. Salvador Allende,
Vice-President of the Chilean Senate

*

I consider that the London-Paris Agreements embody the suicidal policy of armed Peace, of rigid and dangerously poised hostile blocs ... Such policies can only mean death and destruction ...

'Why do not we, all lovers of Peace, resolve now that 1955 must be made the Year of Peace? Wherever we live, whatever our vocations, yes, and whatever be our political affiliations, let us raise our voices, let us agitate and organise persistently so that when the World Assembly of Peace meets next May a force of Peace will have been so developed that the inciters to wars will have been silenced, and reason, goodwill and friendship prevail among the peoples of the world.'

Mr. S. O. Davies
M. P. for Merthyr Tydfil

I welcome the Bureau's decision to call a great World Assembly of Representatives of All Organisations and Tendencies for Peace in Helsinki on May 22. This World Assembly will have to act as the conscience of the peoples. It should represent all humanist tendencies whatever their philosophical views or religious convictions. We in Germany shall do our utmost to extend the influence of the peace forces and win more and more men and women to join the World Council of Peace in its work. That is the lever of Archimedes that can topple the policy of strength and the plans for a blitzkrieg.

Mr. Otto Nuschke
Vice-Premier of the German Democratic Republic

*

'The World Assembly of Representatives of the Forces of Peace in 1955, the aim of which is to make unity prevail over division and peace over war, is in conformity with the interests of Vietnamese Catholics and of the people of Viet Nam. I shall not fail to publicise this Assembly in Catholic circles in our country.'

Father Ho Thanh Bien
Catholic priest from South Viet Nam

*

'"To be or not to be?" That question is more than ever appropriate today when we are all of us threatened with destruction by atomic weapons. It seems that the political leaders can find no solution. There are, however, mighty forces amongst mankind that will prevent war, but until now they have not been able to join together to demonstrate their demands.

'It is for this reason that the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki on May 22, 1955 will be an event of the greatest importance, since representatives from all the peoples of the world are invited to take part.

'The mighty voice of world public opinion must say to the statesmen: 'We want peace!', 'We demand negotiations!', 'We demand the banning of all atomic weapons now!'

'The will of God is that the world shall be a good home for the human family — that mankind shall live in peace, righteousness and brotherhood.

'I hope that the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki will serve this aim, and that a vast number of representatives from churches and peace organisations will meet there.'

Rev. Ragnar Forbeck (Norway)
First Chaplain of Oslo Cathedral

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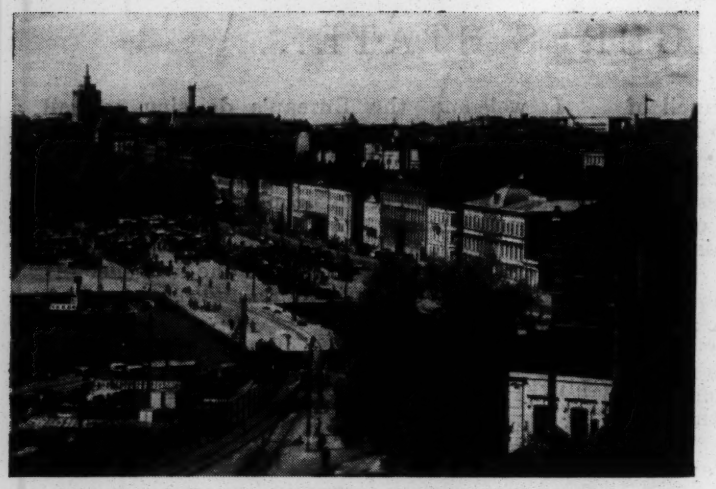
'The importance of the proposed World Peace Congress in May next is very great for all those countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and the world which do not want to annihilate others or be annihilated in a world conflict in which weapons of mass destruction may be used ...

'All nations that want to live and let live, that want to stop the exploitation of man by man or of nation by nation, must therefore meet and make up their minds not to play the imperialist game. They should further insist upon an absolute ban on all weapons of mass destruction. This is the programme that lies before the proposed May Congress and I do make a fervent appeal that nations that want to preserve their freedom and also the freedom of others should regard it as a sacred duty to join it.

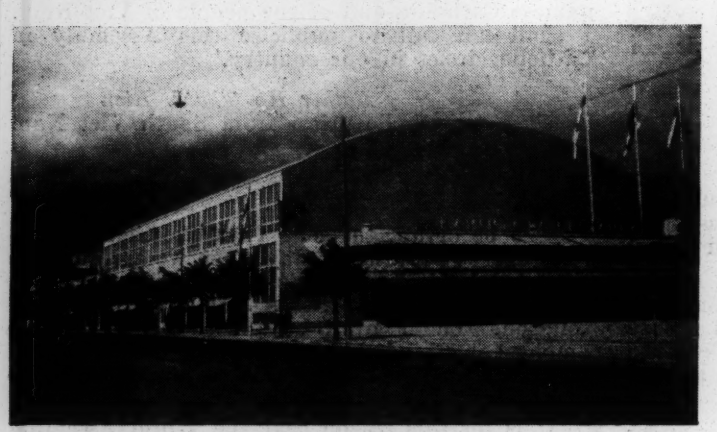
Pandit Sunderlal (India)

32.26.13

HELSINKI GETS READY TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATES



The city of Helsinki, which was founded at the mouth of the Wanda in 1550 by King Gustav Vasa, for long remained a little town most of whose houses were made of wood as in almost all other Nordic towns. The great fire of 1808 resulted in the beginning of a vast amount of reconstruction which changed the face of the town. Our photo shows the market square in Helsinki.



The Exhibition Hall in Helsinki where the World Assembly will be held.

We Finnish people are happy that the World Assembly for Peace is being held in our country and we will joyfully receive the best representatives of the forces of peace of all countries. We hope that we shall acquit ourselves successfully of the honourable task of acting as host to this most important international meeting, in co-operation with all those who want peace in our country.

Our capital, Helsinki, with its 450,000 inhabitants, is assuredly not a huge city, but it is both modern and beautiful. It is called the white city of the North and this will not be the first time that it has acted as host to an international meeting. It was the scene of the Olympic Games in 1952 and many other international meetings have been held there.

Finland is a bridge between East and West; with both we have extensive economic and cultural relations. This co-operation between our people and all its neighbours is a tangible proof of the possibility of peaceful co-existence between countries with different political and social systems. From this point of view also Finland is peculiarly suited to receive a World Assembly in a spirit of peace, understanding and co-operation between the peoples of the world.

We are happy that at the end of May, the time when the Spring comes to Helsinki with its first light nights, chasing the frost and darkness, we shall also be welcoming the messengers of the forces of peace in all countries — forces that bring springtime and light to the whole of mankind.

Professor FELIX IVERSEN
Vice-President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations

Finland,
Country of a Thousand Lakes

● *Finland, the 'country of 1,000 lakes', offers the visitor scenery of great variety.*

This view of a plain in the Palkane region is typical of the southern part of the country.

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